Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

13

Nobuyuki Fukumoto

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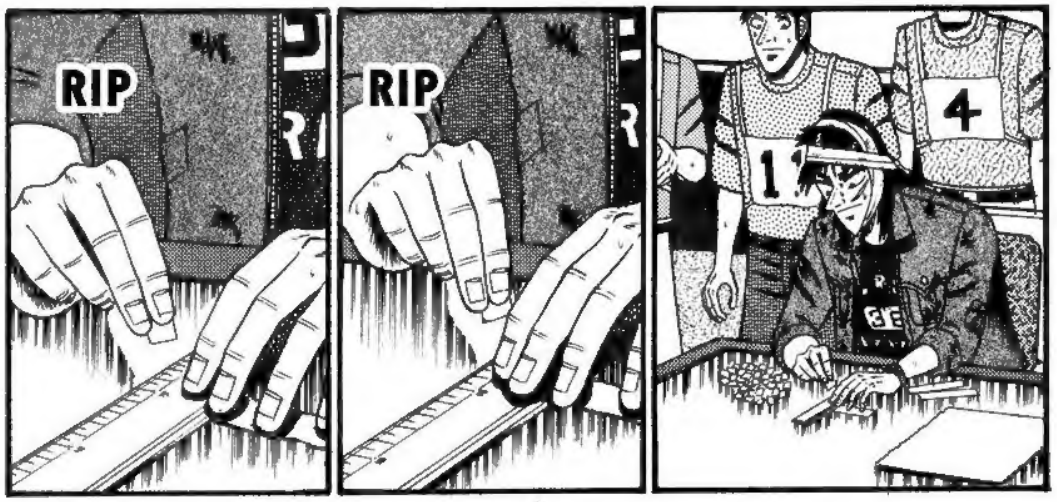
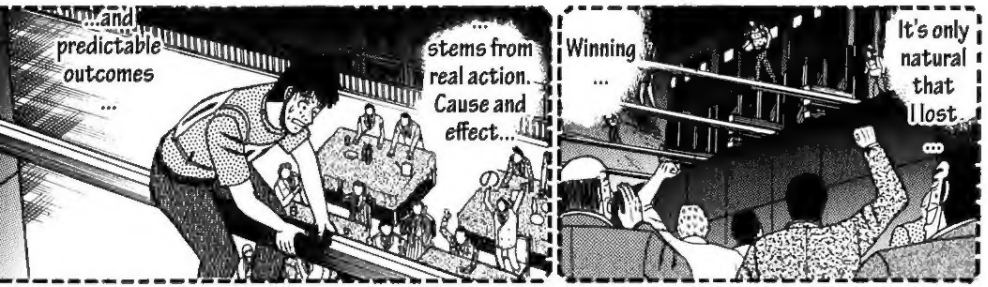
Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

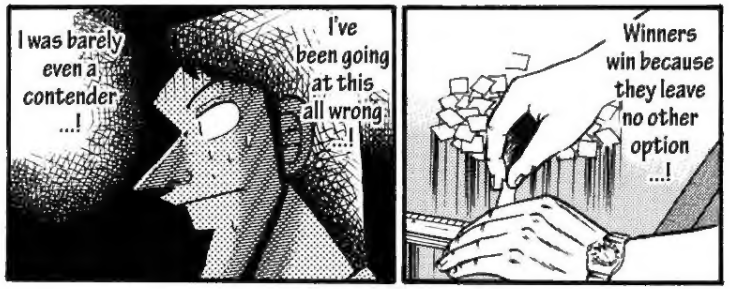
It's fingers crossed ...



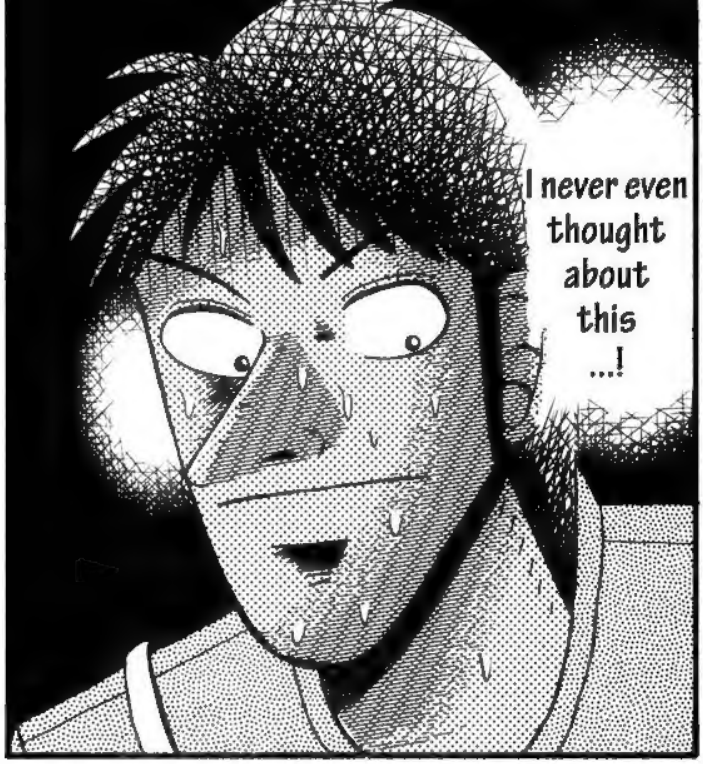
Winning isn't a matter of chance!!!

Chapter 145: Bait





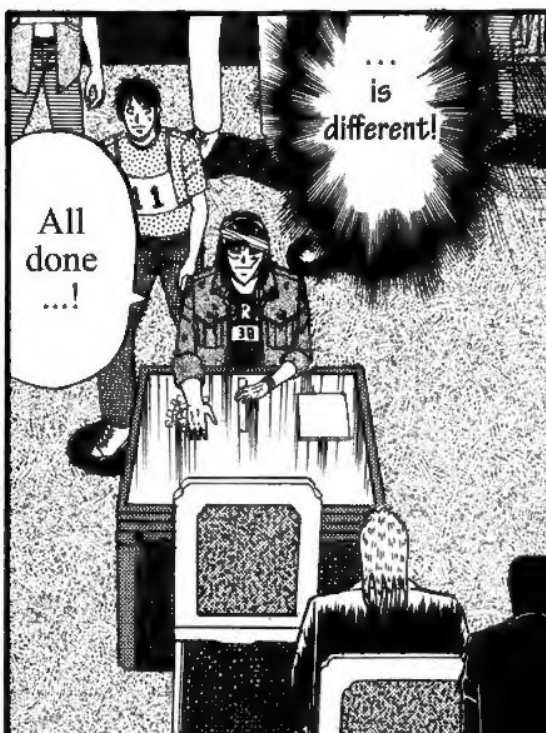
... before I even started!
I was destroying my chances ...
... realized this before?
... why I never ...
I wonder ...
Winning should be inevitable ...!


I never even thought about this ...!

R I P
Kaiji-san ...

But not Kaiji-san ...!

As you can see ...

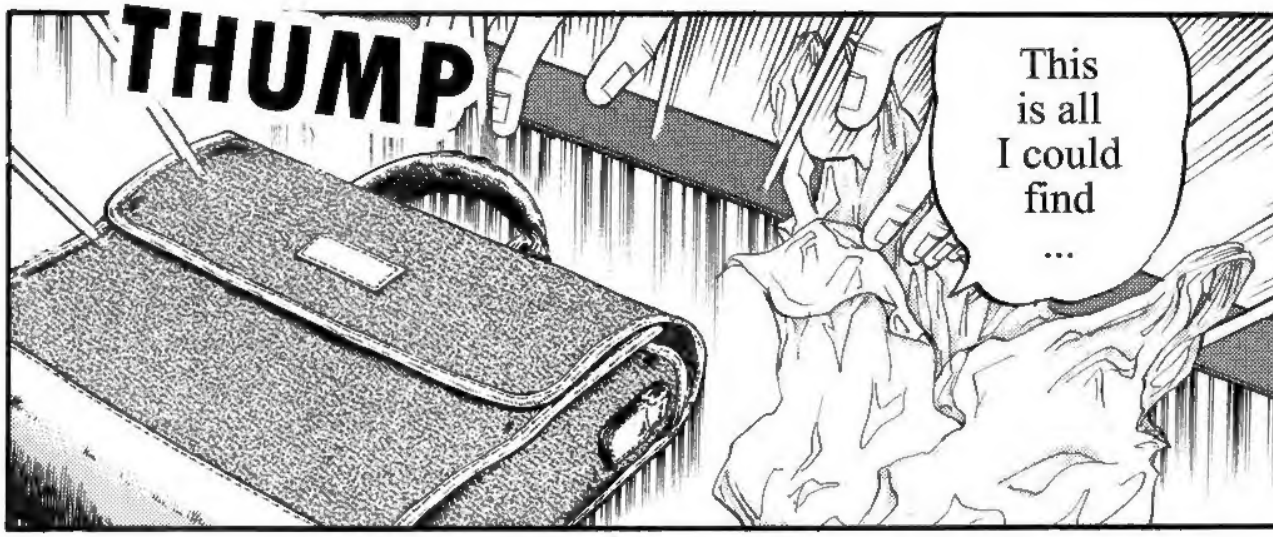

All done ...!
... is different!

... we have one winning ticket ...
... and a heap of losing ones.

We're going to mix them together and take turns picking ...
The first to draw the right ticket is the winner.
.....
It's a very simple game.
The only thing missing ...

...is something to put the tickets in.
.....
Oi ...!
Bring us something ...
... to hold these, a box or a bag.
Sir ...!

SCOOT


THUMP
This is all I could find ...

Huh ...?
This is no good ...!

Just look ...!

You're pushing it, kid ...!
How do I know you haven't done something?
Don't you have ...
... already belong to you.
... and this briefcase ...
... the plastic bag ...
You can see straight through ...

I said you're pushing it ...!
There's gotta be something ...!
Something you guys couldn't have tampered with ...?
... anything else?

Huh ...?
There ...!
3

Seattle

It's gotta be new.
... not that one!
It's gotta be an unopened box...!

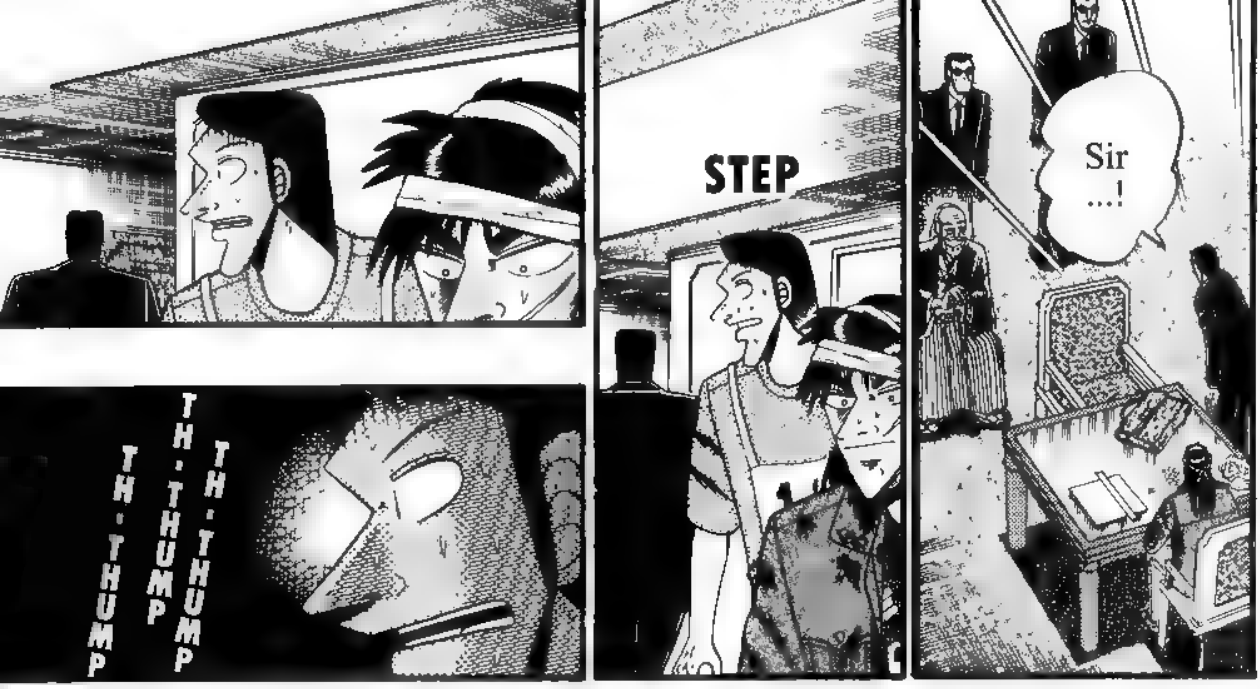
But ...
A tissue box ...?

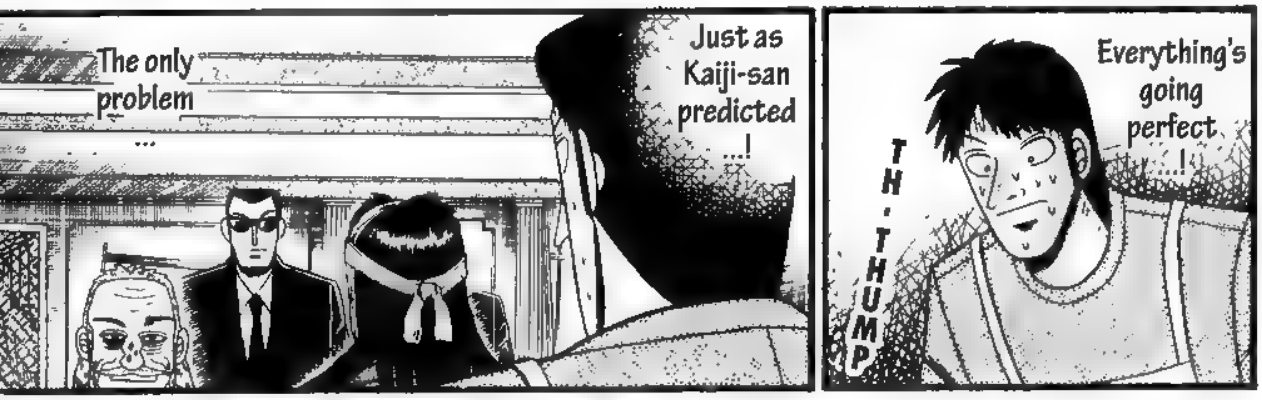
Why don't we use a tissue box?
Of course ...!

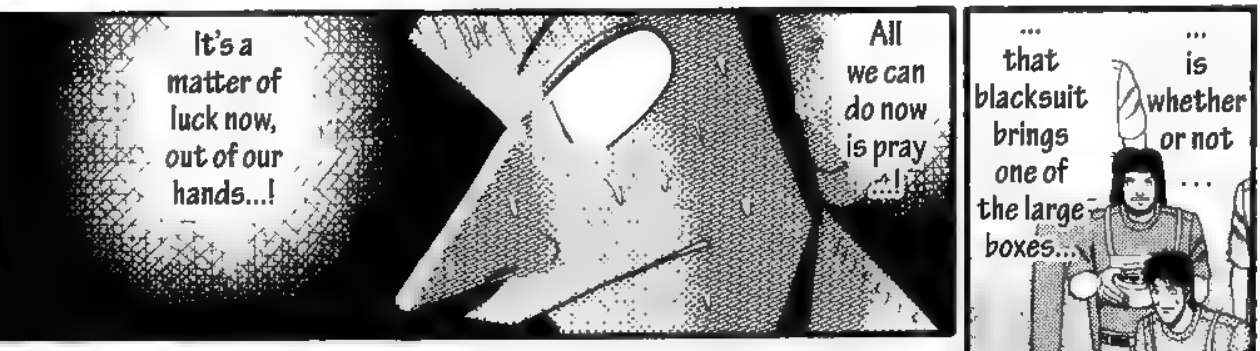
Go on ...
.....

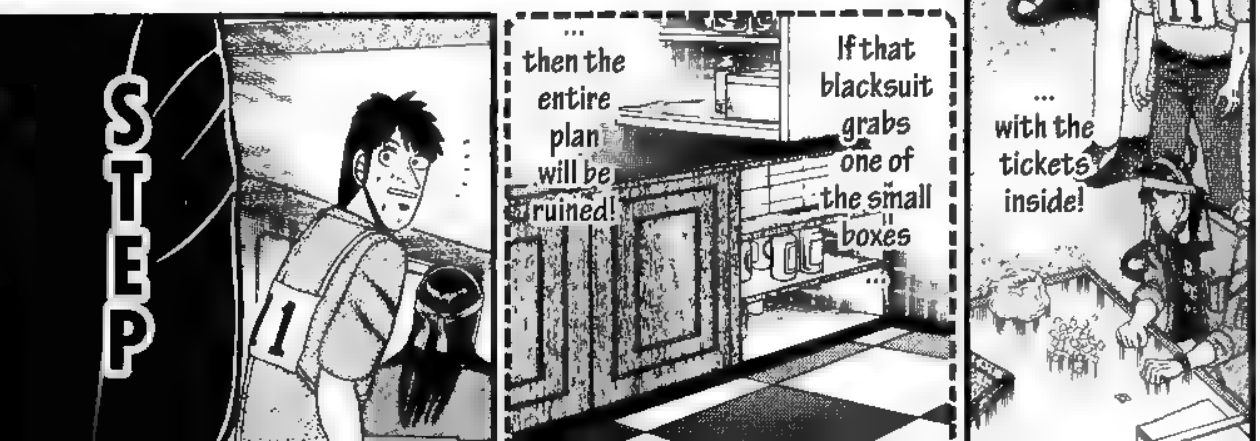
.....
Director ...?

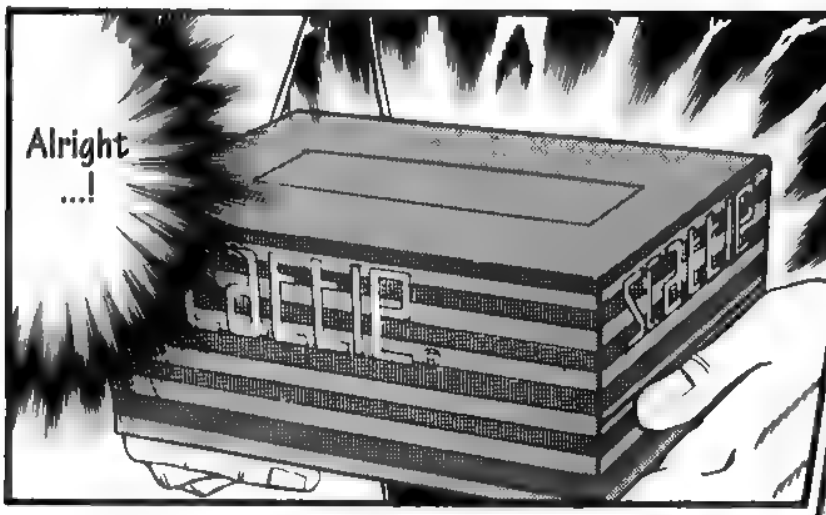
.....
Bring me an unopened box ...!


STEP
Sir ...!
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP


The only problem ...
Just as Kaiji-san predicted ...!
Everything's going perfect ...!
TH-THUMP


It's a matter of luck now, out of our hands...!
All we can do now is pray ...!


STEP
...
then the entire plan will be ruined!
If that blacksuit grabs one of the small boxes ...
... that blacksuit brings one of the large boxes...
... is whether or not ...
... with the tickets inside!
11


Alright ...!

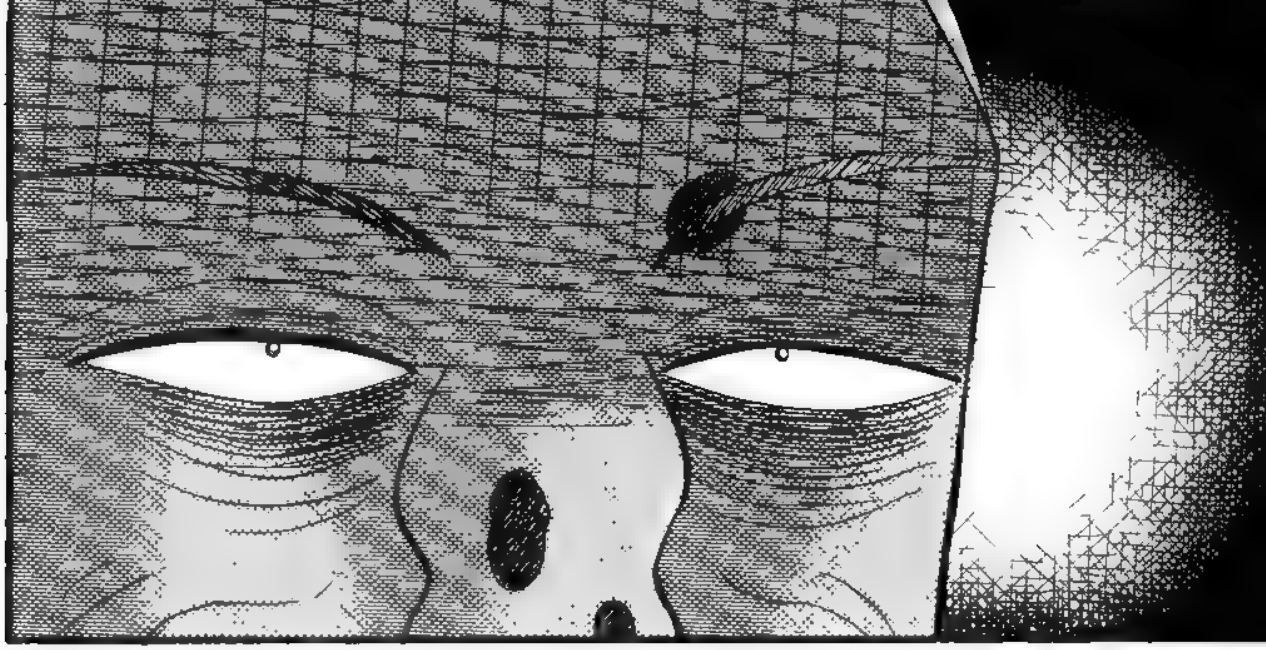
Ahh ...!

How's this ...?

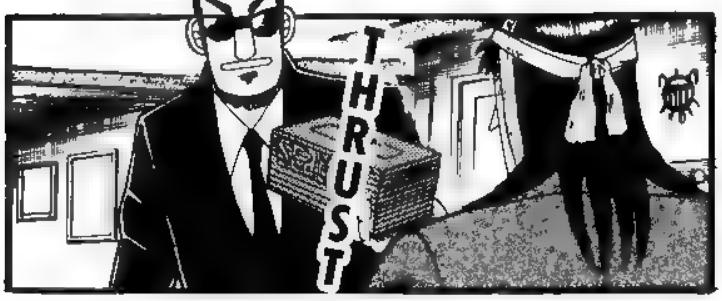
There's a ticket inside ...!
It's a big box ...!

It'll do ...

Hold it ...!
Let's get started ...
.....
You wanna look at it ...?
Yeah ...
I know it's unlikely ...
I wanna take a look at it first.
Huh ...?
I told you before that you're pushing it...!
.....
You little creep ...!
... but you might have tampered with it!



Did Kaiji-san go too far ...?



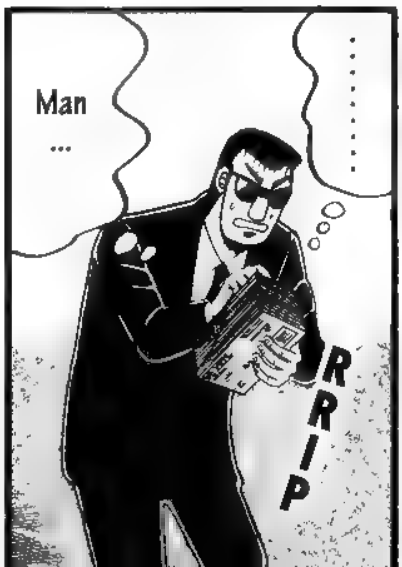
What for..? What is Kaiji-san doing...!?
Whaaaat ...!?
Take a look at the box...!
Why ...?
TH-THUMP TH-THUMP

Why ...!?

GLARE
1
1

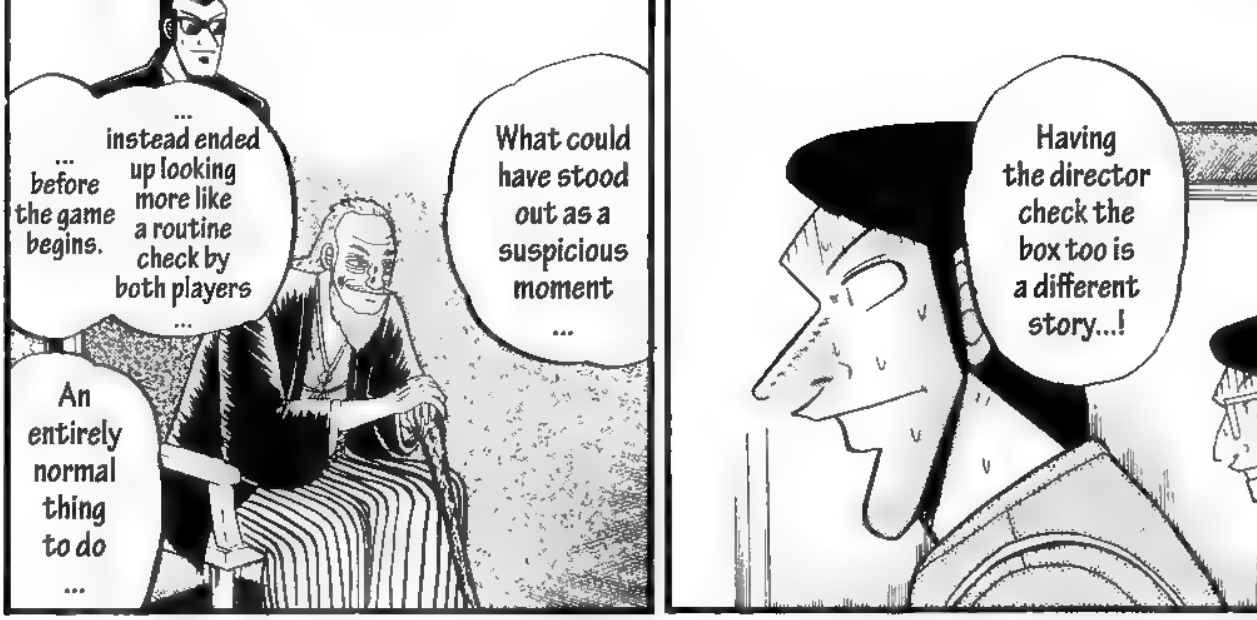
.....
11

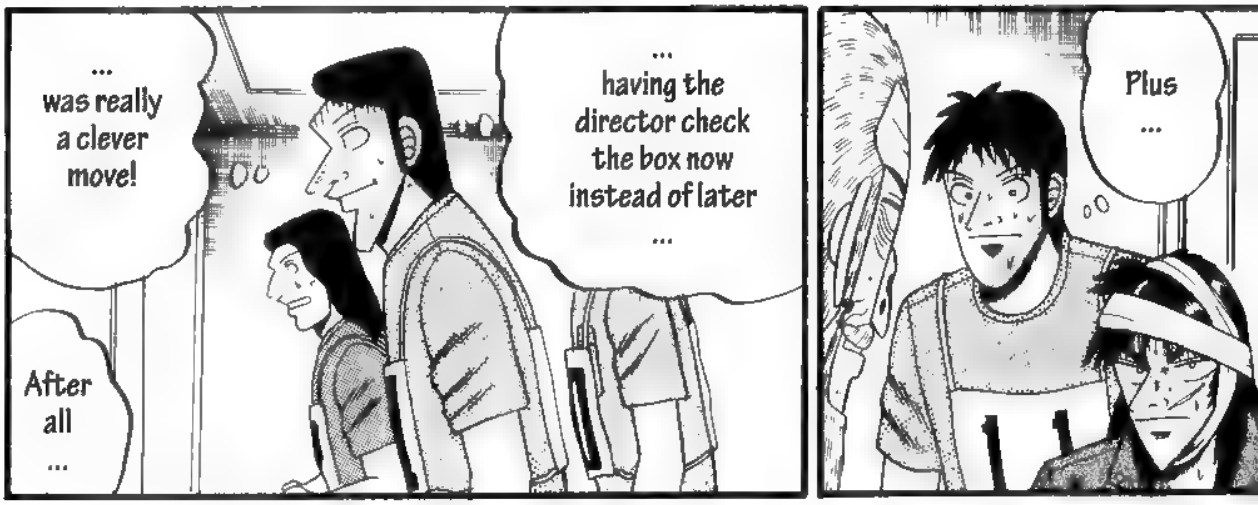
I see no problem ...
Phew ...!
11
3

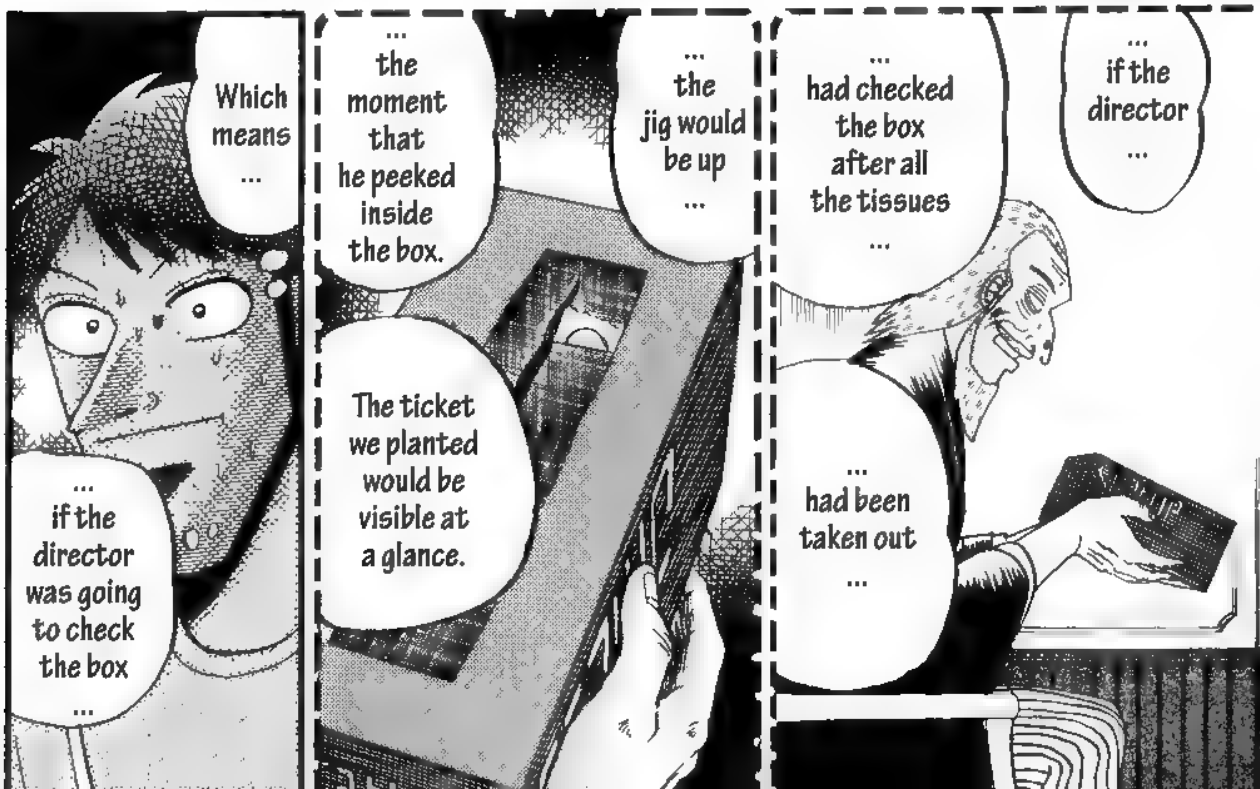

Man ...
.....
RRIP

Can I open it now ...?
Go ahead ...

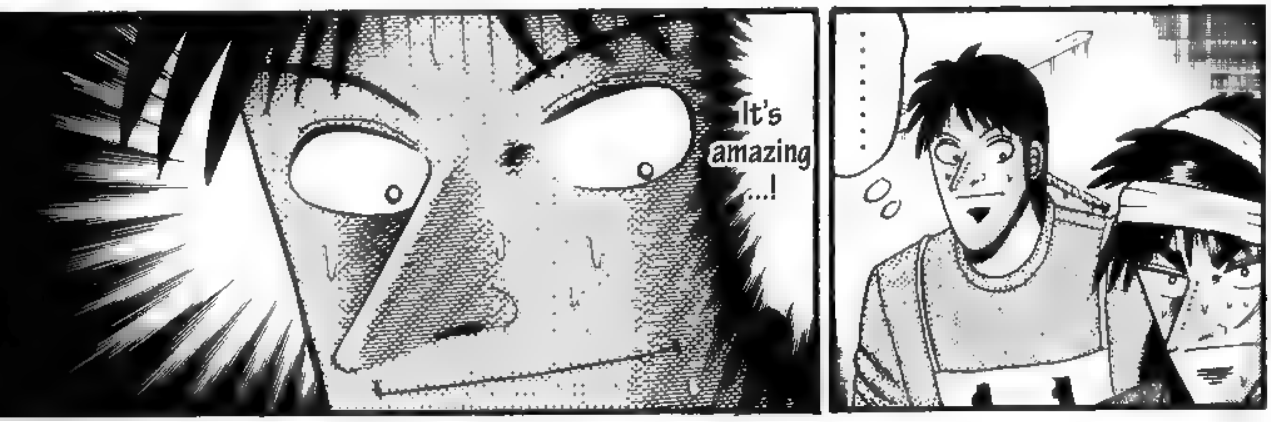
TEARRRR
It's alright ...
He did well ...!
It was all still a part of his plan ...!
That wasn't too far after all ...!
After all, if Kaiji-san ...
... had been the only one to check the box ...
...it might have looked like he was playing it up ...
... or even doing something underhanded ...
But ...!


An entirely normal thing to do ...
... before the game begins.
... instead ended up looking more like a routine check by both players ...
What could have stood out as a suspicious moment ...
Having the director check the box too is a different story...!

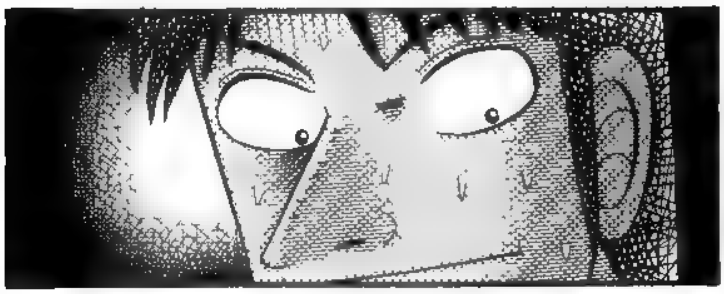

After all ...
... was really a clever move!
... having the director check the box now instead of later ...
Plus ...

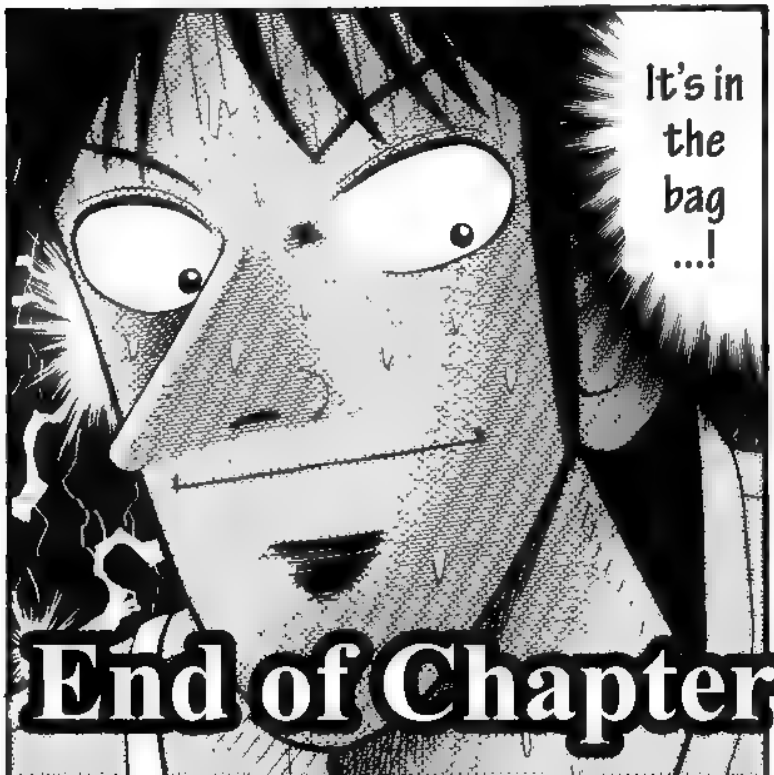

... if the director was going to check the box ...
Which means ...
... the moment that he peeked inside the box.
The ticket we planted would be visible at a glance.
... the jig would be up ...
... had checked the box after all the tissues ...
... had been taken out ...
... if the director ...

...
was able to make it seem like the natural time to do so
...
...
and the director
...
...
the box first himself, Kaiji-san
...
By checking
...
...
it had to be now, before it was opened!
...
so far as to admit
...
...
that there were no problems!
He even went
...
...
simply followed suit!


It's amazing ...!
.....

So this is what real winning is all about ...!
Absolutely perfect ...!
And the way he carries it all off is incredible ...!
...
he's thought of everything!
Kaiji-san may be playing it cool, but really
...
...
3





After all of his preparation, there's no way he can lose now...!

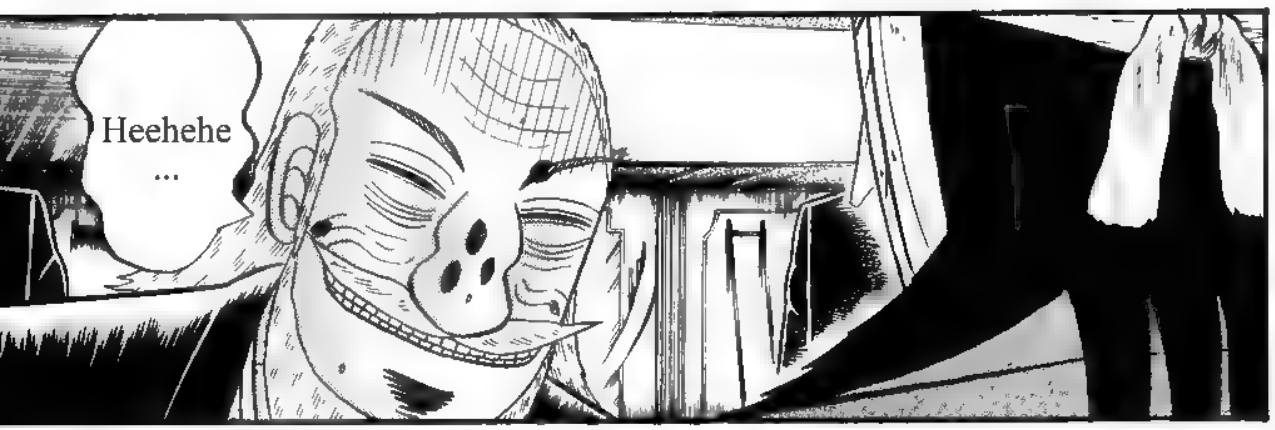
End of Chapter 145

JAM
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
TAP
TAP
Seattle
...
set it
down!
Here
...
Will
this do
...?
10
It's
fine
...

Chapter 146: Conditions

Over here...!
Come ...!
...Mr. Director.
We're ready now...
SHUFFLE
Hehehe ...
CRICK
CRRK

This won't do at all...!
After all that trouble, your game is actually quite dull...
.....
It's too boring ...
Huh ...?
At my advanced age...
I am struggling to stay awake...
This game of yours is too simple...!
Much too simple ...!
... to stay awake at these hours!
...it takes more than a child's game to entice a person...

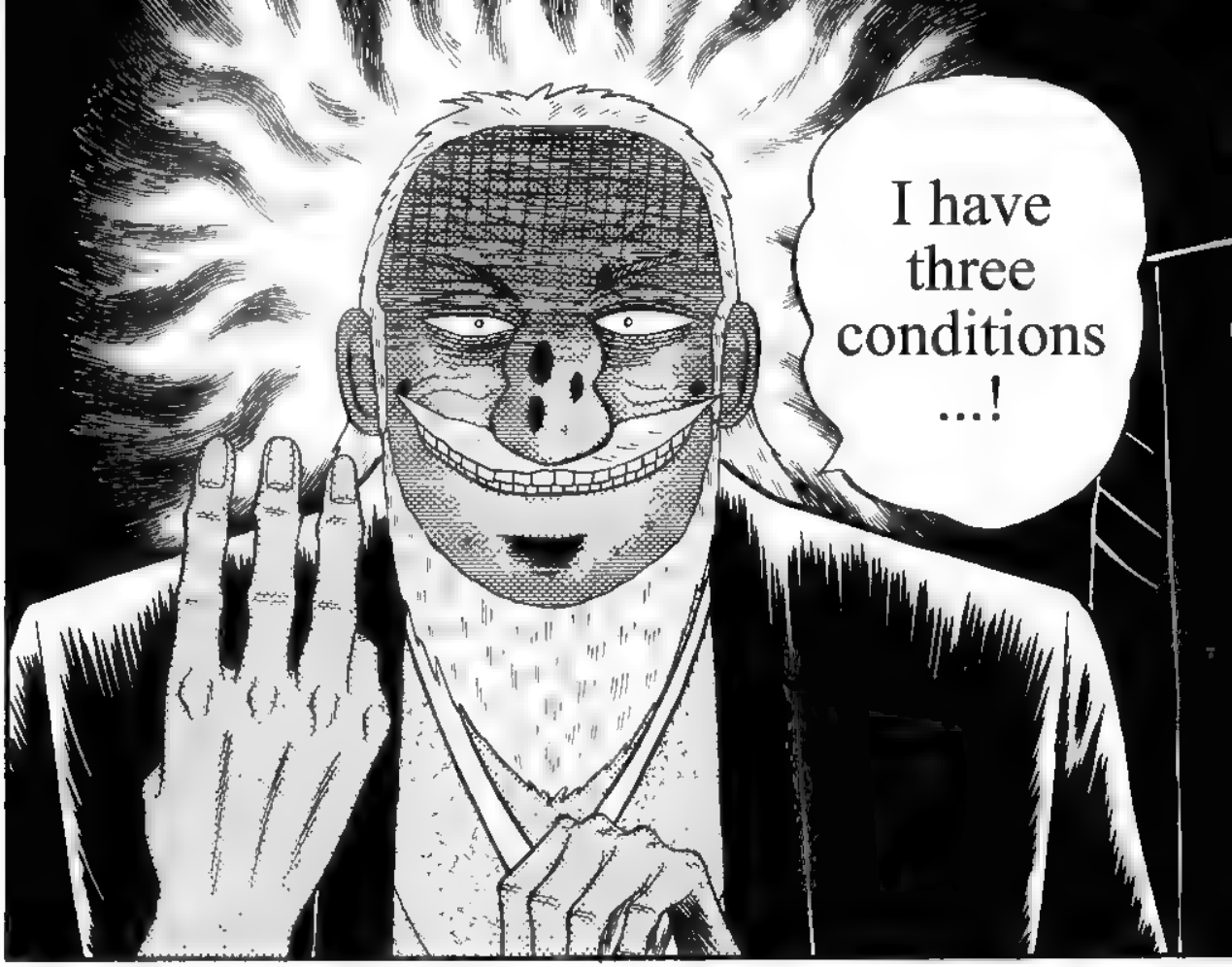

Heehehe
...

However
...
...to honor your request, Kaiji-kun!

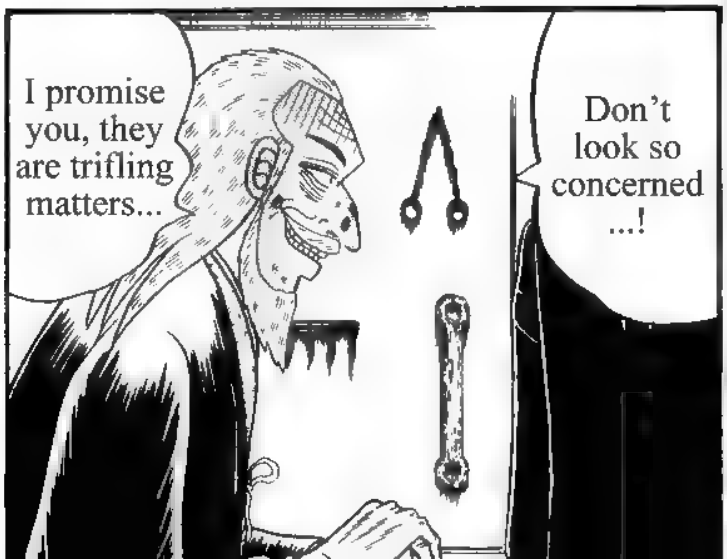
...that you've provided me, tonight
...
After all the entertainment
...
..it would be my pleasure
...

Don't look so crestfallen ...!
Now, now...

I didn't say that I wouldn't play...


I have three conditions ...!

Yes...
Conditions ...?


I promise you, they are trifling matters...
Don't look so concerned ...!

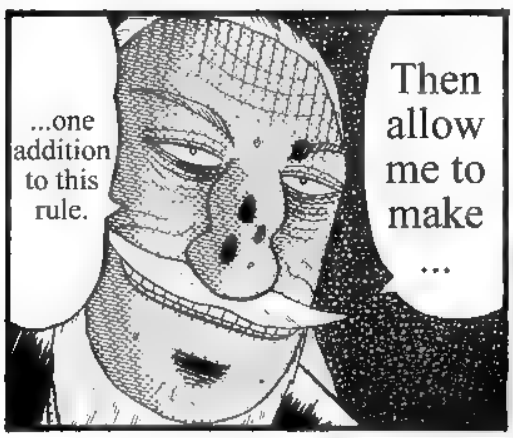
…they are all entirely reasonable requests!
Once you hear them, I'm sure that you'll agree…
The first condition concerns the manner in which we may draw the winning ticket...
In other words ...
The first condition ...!
Fine ...!
Heehehe…
Spit it out, then ...!

Correct ...
Cheating ...?
...to prevent any cheating!
... the first condition is meant ...
We must ...
...take measures to safeguard them!
...to be blown about by the slightest gust.
... considering how much is at stake.
Poor stuff ...
These tickets of yours are quite flimsy ...
... hiding them between your fingers, if perhaps...
Forget about ...
... you were to roll one of these into a ball ...
What ...?
...balls must be forbidden!
So you see ...

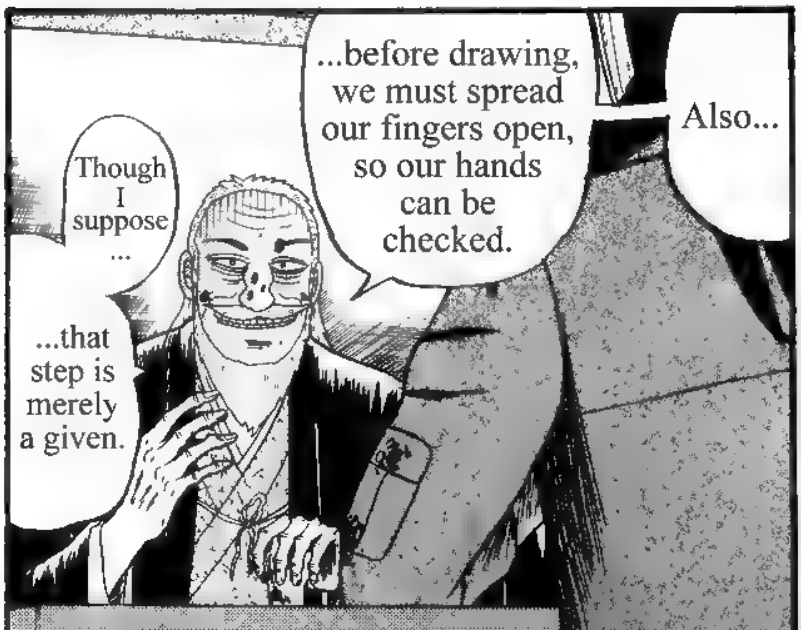
Well, perhaps entirely unblemished is too much to ask for...
...but regardless ...
The winning ticket must be unblemished ...
So ...!
...you could hide it even between your fingernails!
If this were allowed ...
...is unacceptable!
...that has been rolled into a ball like so...
... any ticket ...
Do you understand ...?
.....
...to draw from the box, while in fact you took it...
....you might only pretend ...
...a false ticket that you had hidden previously!
...from your hair or inside your ear...

Of course ...

...you're obviously right.
Now that you point it out ...


...one addition to this rule.
Then allow me to make ...

Hehehe...
No balls ...!
Agreed, then...


Though I suppose ...
...that step is merely a given.
...before drawing, we must spread our fingers open, so our hands can be checked.
Also...

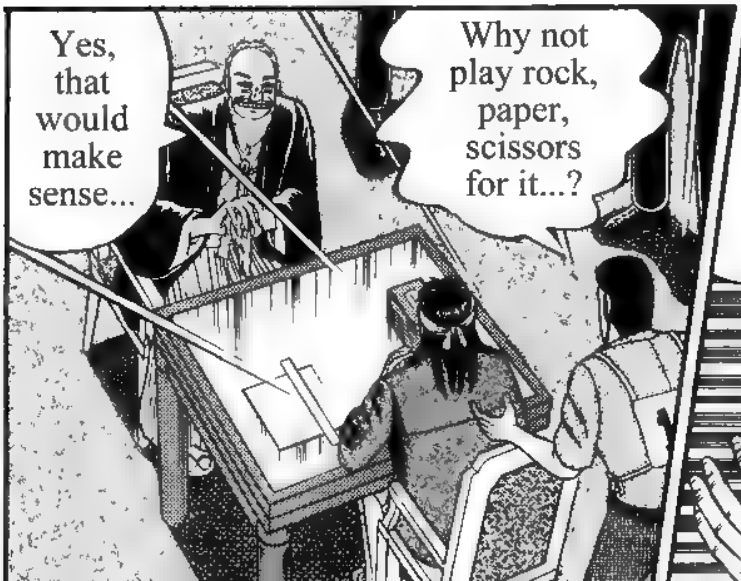
When we draw ...
... we must also do so with our sleeves rolled up!

Hehehe ...
None ...
You have no objections, I expect ...?
... is actually a request, though selfish on my part.
This condition ...
Now then, onto the second condition ...
Most reasonable of you...!
Huh ...?
I'm asking ...
I must be given precedence ...!

...to draw the very first ticket!
... that I be the one...

Ngh ...!

ざわ...

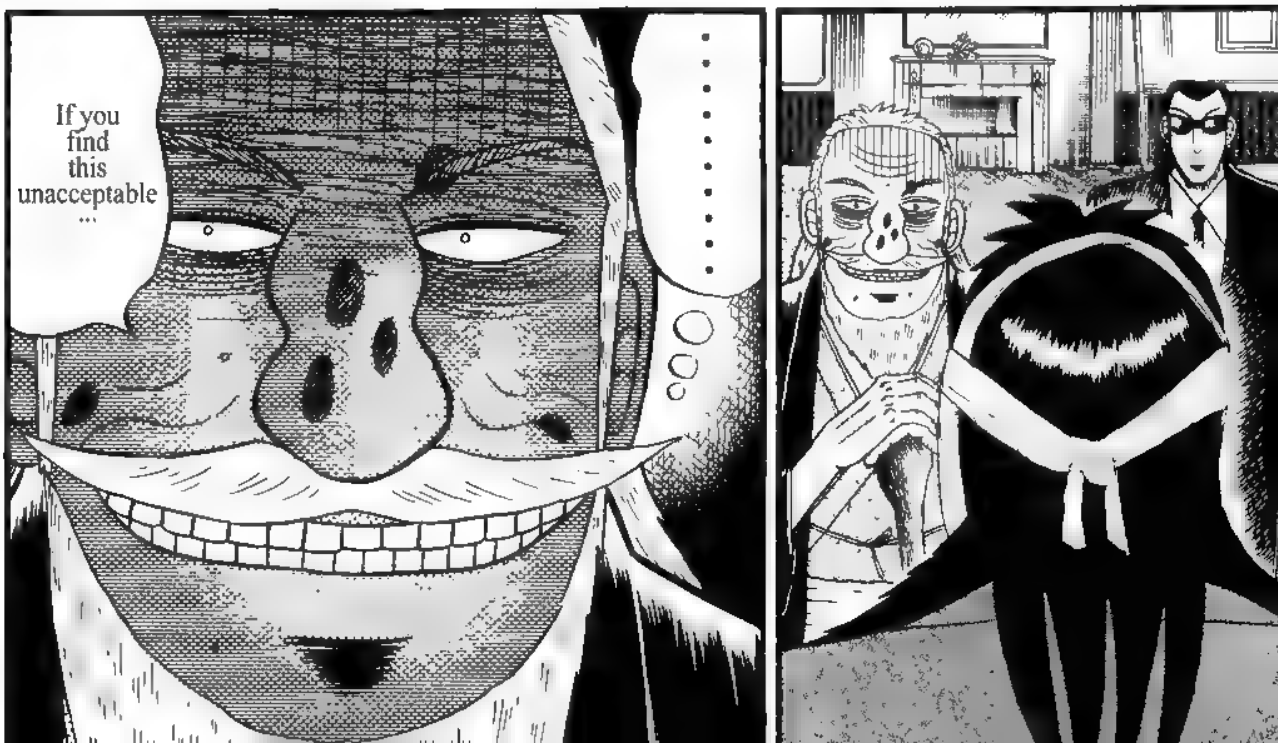

Yes, that would make sense...
Why not play rock, paper, scissors for it...?

Th-That's not fair ...!
Get real ...!

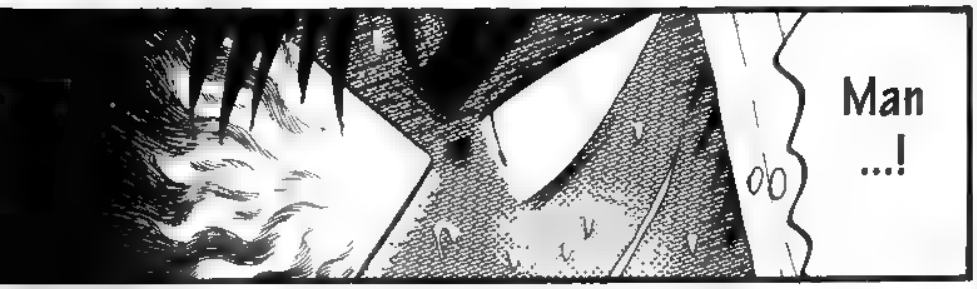
...by playing his game...
...by his rules....
...honoring Kaiji-kun's request in its entirety....
... remember that I am, after all...
However ...
...though the probability is small...
...if Kaiji-kun were to draw the winning ticket...
So you see...
...that I have grown weary and would much rather retire.
It is unusual for me to be so obliging ...!
...keeping him company despite the fact...
How unfortunate that would be...!
How exceedingly disappointing ...!
...without my having drawn a single ticket.
...the game would end...
...on the very first round...

My only wish ...
...is to forestall such an eventuality!

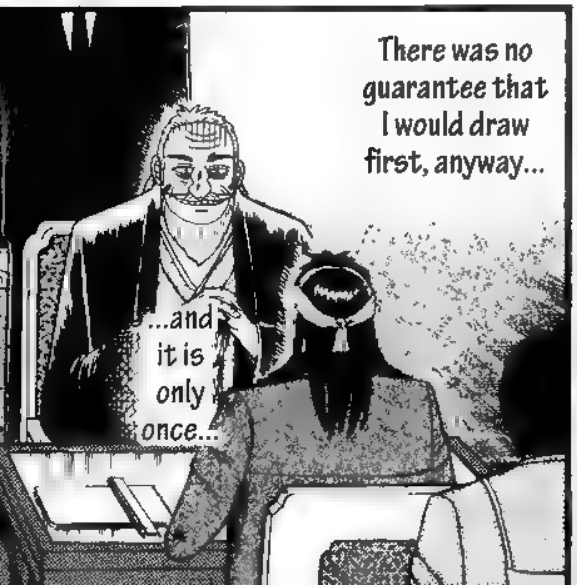
Kaiji-san...
10


If you find this unacceptable ...

... perhaps we should call it a day!


Man ...!

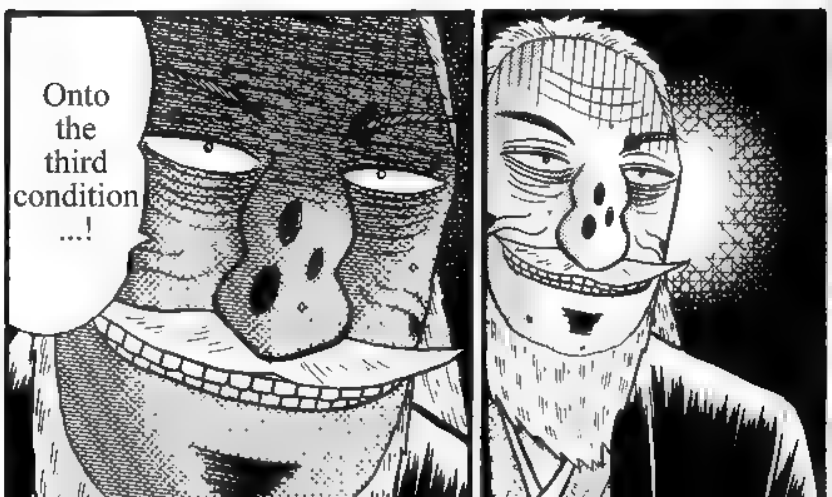
ぎゅ...
Ngh ...!


There was no guarantee that I would draw first, anyway...
...and it is only once...

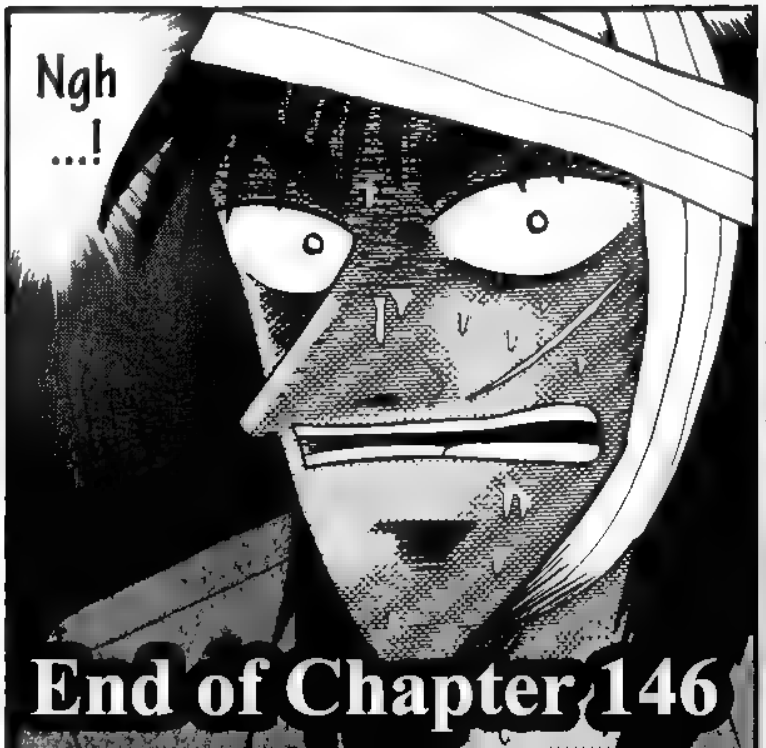
Still ...
This is exploitation...

10
11
4
It's only one draw ...!

: Heehehe
Kaiji-san ...!
10
Have it your way ...!


Onto the third condition ...!

...to satisfy me!
...is not enough ...
The 20 million yen you hold...
The important matter of our wager...!
... I am prepared to cover the remaining balance with one of my "devices" ...
If you agree ...
Hehehe ...
Huh ...!?



End of Chapter 146

Chapter 147: Offer

ざわ..
Heehehehe…
ざわ..
ざわ..
……

My brain is already fried!
I cannot help myself...
I am forced to admit it!
...it is infinitely preferable to a boring and insipid game!
…Nevertheless

Exactly ...
Hehehe…
100 million ...!?
...for such a low caliber game...
I know that such a bet is hardly fitting...
Loose change just doesn't excite me...!
RS
38

I am an addict!
... something other than money!
So I would have you wager ...
Ordinary games no longer excite me ...!
...does not command such price ...
Usually a single digit ...

...and grant you special favor!
CLUNK
...I am willing to make an exception in your case...
...but since you have conducted yourself so gallantly this evening...
...the remaining 80 million yen...
... Kaiji-kun ...
If you should lose...
20 million yen per digit...!
ざわ..
ざわ..
ざわ..
Eeek ...!

...will be taken in fingers!

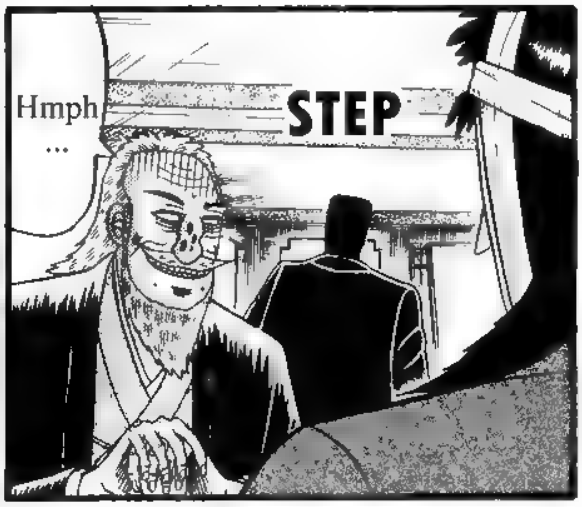
0
11
4
RA

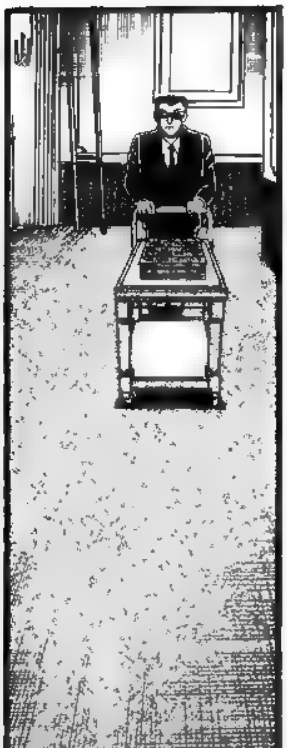
A wonderful proposition, don't you agree...?
.....

Heehehe ...

Hehehe ...
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
……
Kaiji-san...
……
1
Of course ...
……

Your payment will be immediate ...
...and in cold hard cash!
...that I will give you no tomfoolery about tickets, as I did with the bridge.
...you can rest assured ...
... if you win ...


Hmph ...
STEP

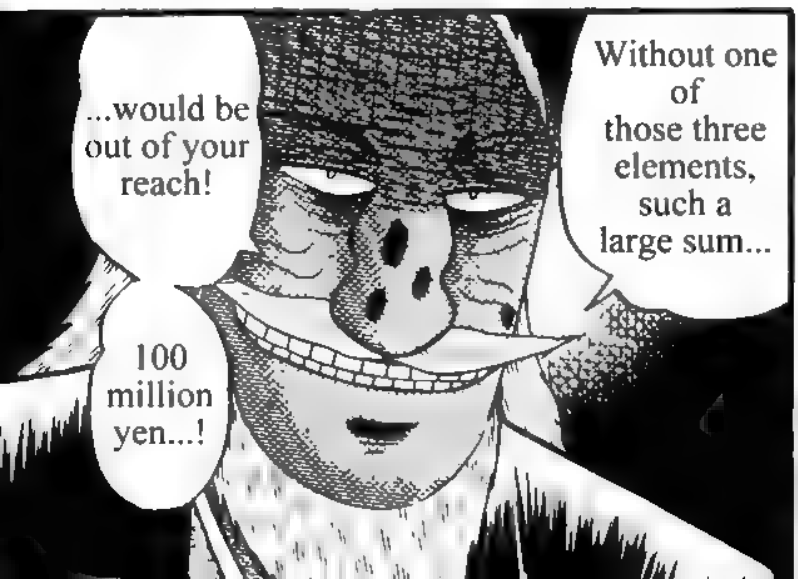


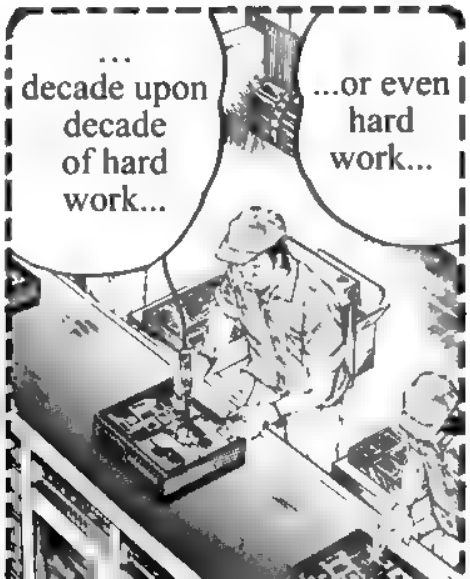
Ngh
...!
11
38

100 million ...!

...or talent...
Unusual luck...

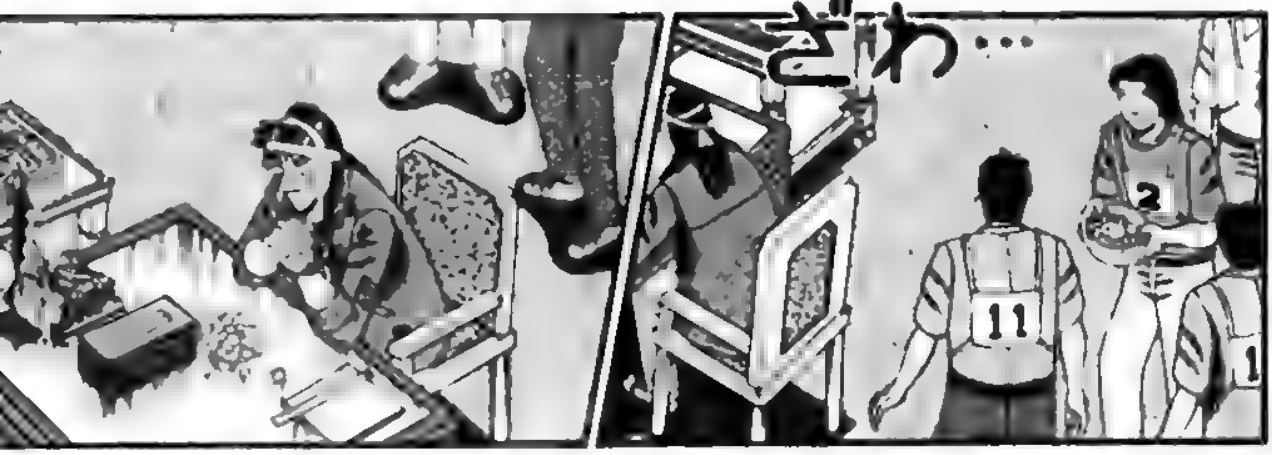
Hehehe ...
.....


...would be out of your reach!
Without one of those three elements, such a large sum...
100 million yen...!

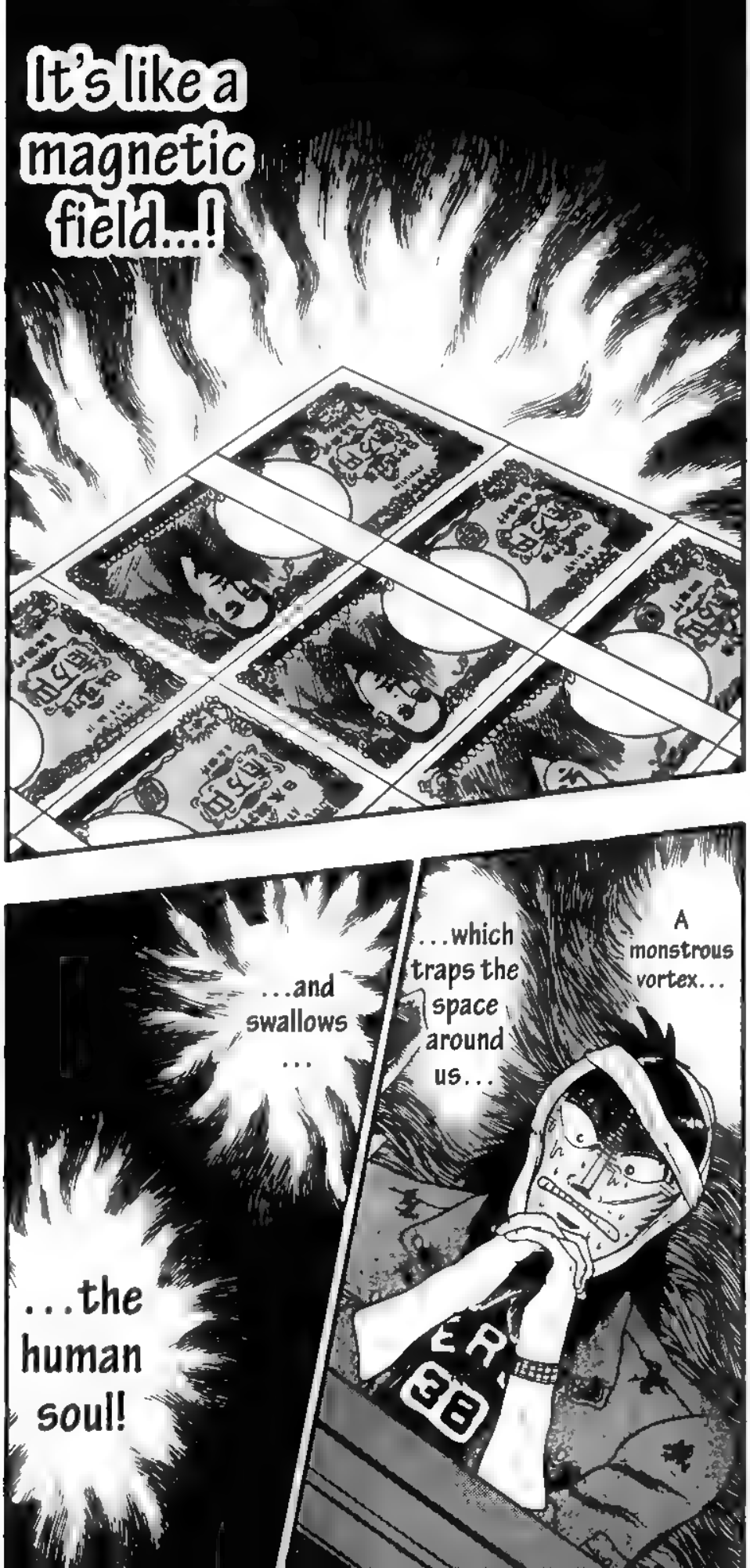

... decade upon decade of hard work...
...or even hard work...

But it can be yours ...
...in the blink of an eye, Kaiji-kun!

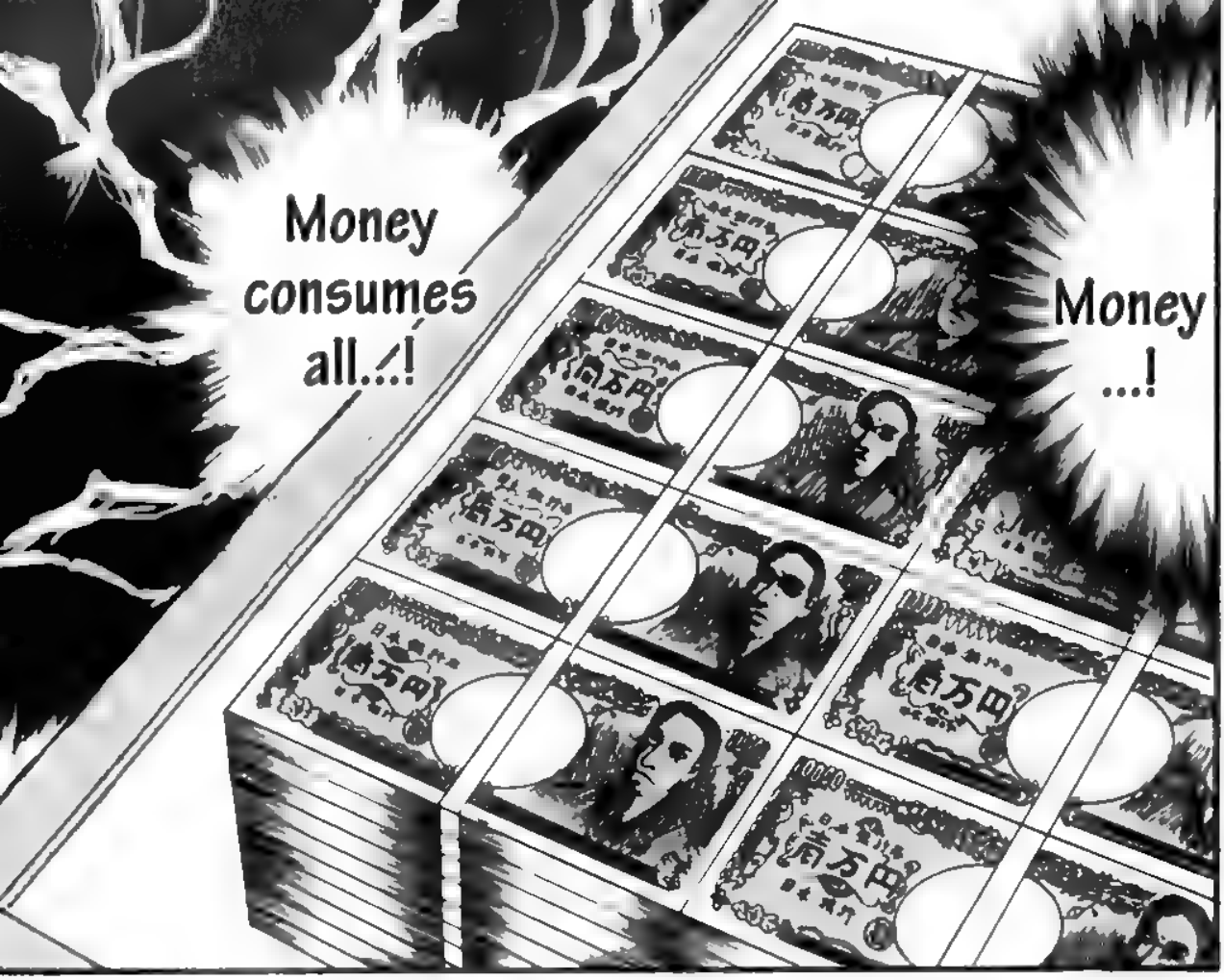
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ..


ざわ…
11
2
1

Money ...!
S
3



Money is what makes the world turn...!


Money consumes all...!
Money ...!

And there it is, right before my eyes..
So much money...it's overwhelming ...
...close enough to touch!

100 million ...!

Ngh ...!

But ...!

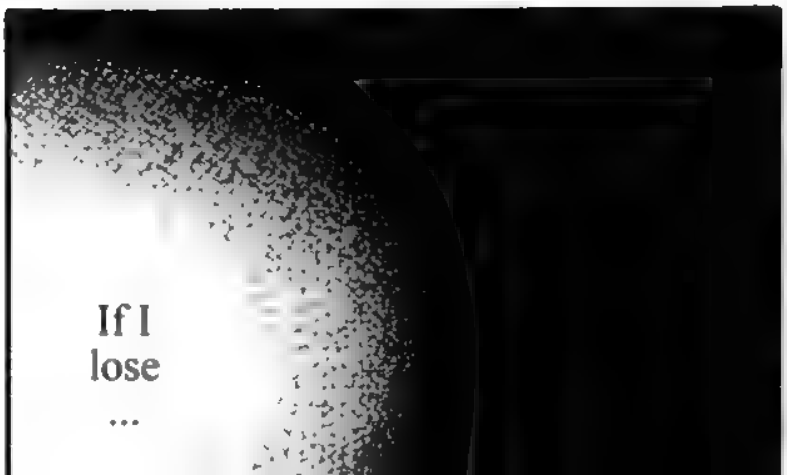
If I lose, the axe falls...!

...four of my fingers!
They're going to take...

Hehehehe
...
Heehehe
...
End of Chapter 147

9
10
Chapter 148: Acceptance

Kaiji-san...!
10


If I lose ...

All that will leave me with is debt and disfigurement ...!

...I win 100 million yen!
...if I win...
But ...
That makes the 20 million I have now...
... look like mere chump change.
...no matter how hard I worked.
...there's no way I could make that much ...
At 900 yen an hour...
That's real money ...!
Look at it ...!

Enough to start over ...!

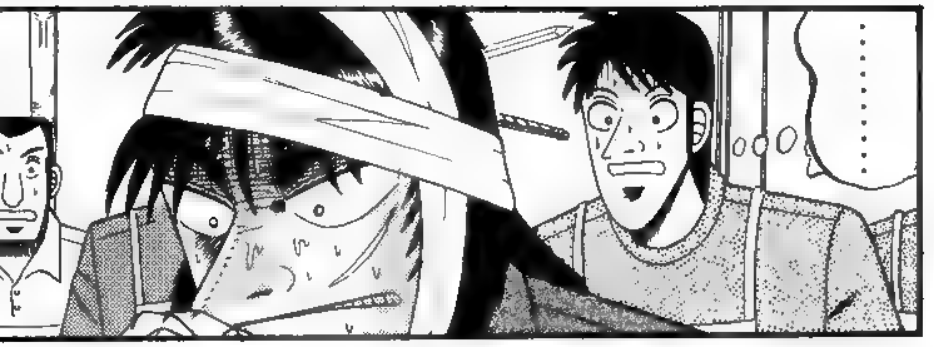
I can start my life over ...!

And it's right there, before my very eyes...!

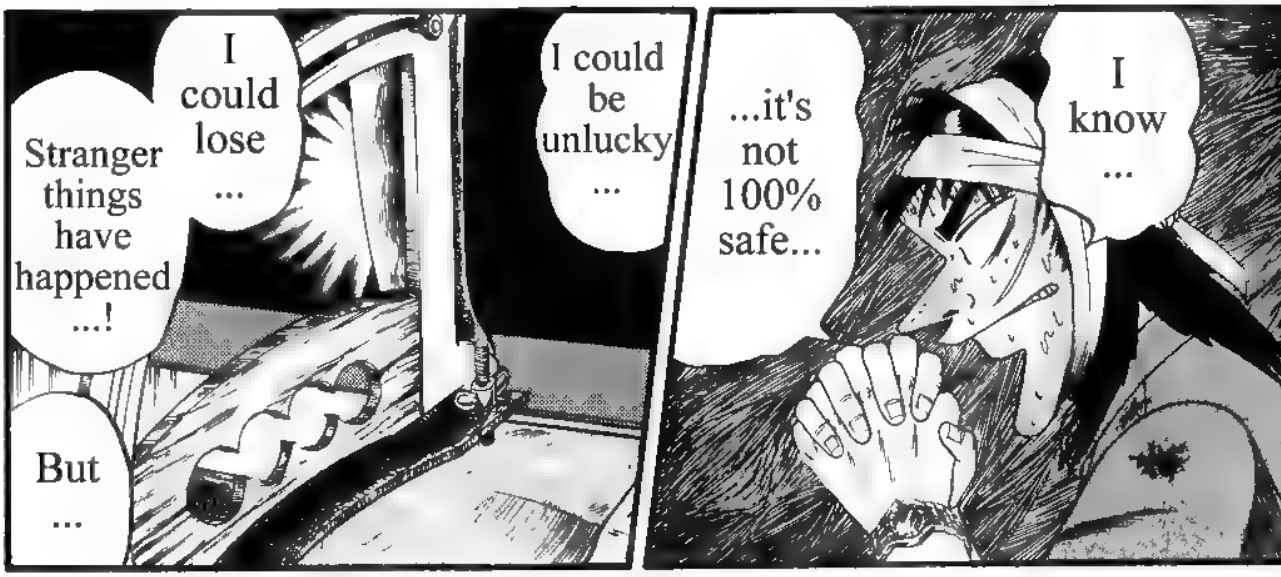
Right before my eyes...!

There's nothing to be afraid of...!
I'll do it...!
...barring that misfortune ...
...this game...!
But ...
...if he pulled the winning ticket on his first go!
The only danger would be...
...I'll have 100 million yen!
Once I get past that first hurdle ...
I can win ...!
... is in the bag!

One hundred million...!



I said it's fine ...!
But ...
I'll do it...!
Kaiji-san...!
11


Stranger things have happened ...!
I could lose ...
But ...
I could be unlucky ...
...it's not 100% safe...
I know ...

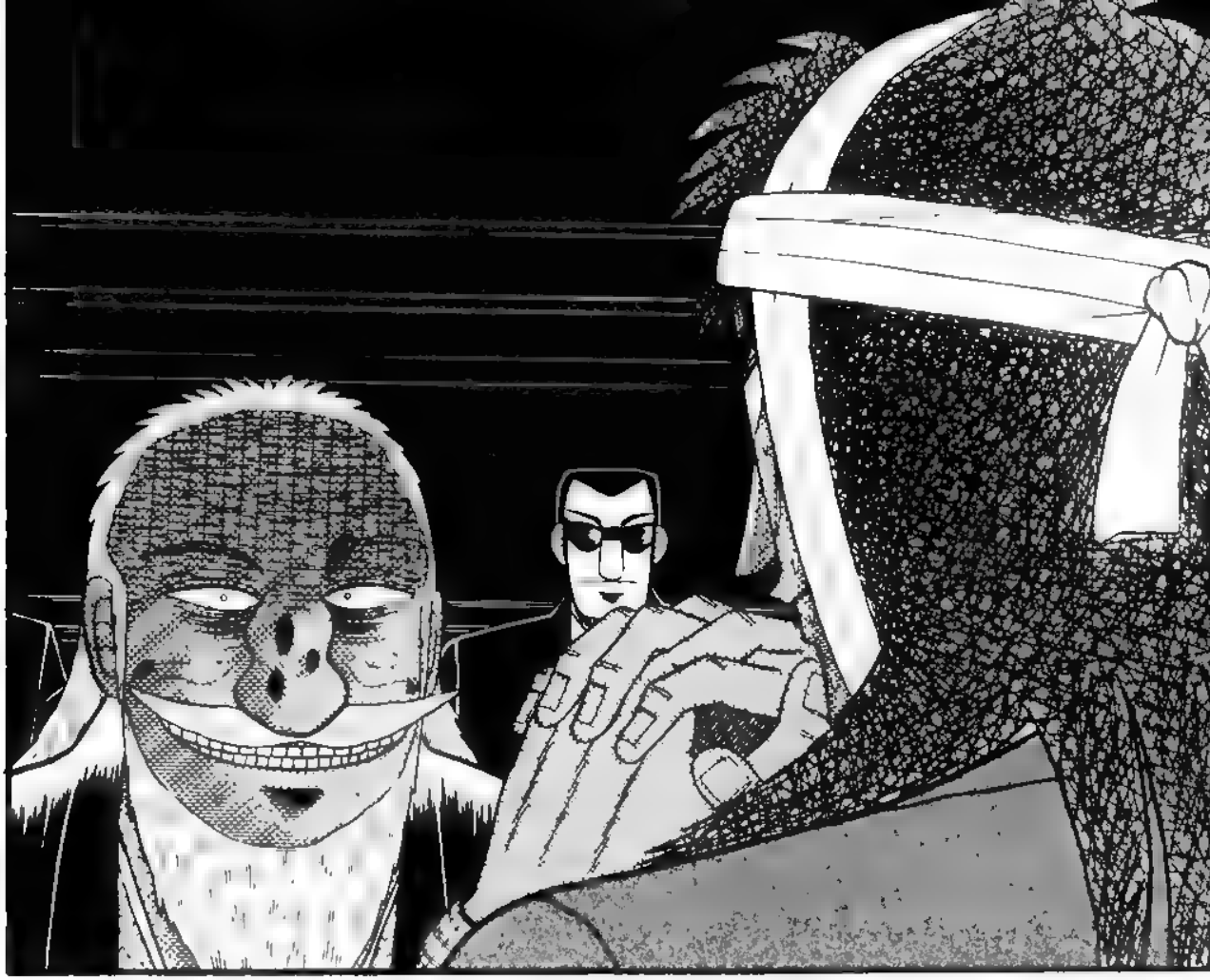
Still ...

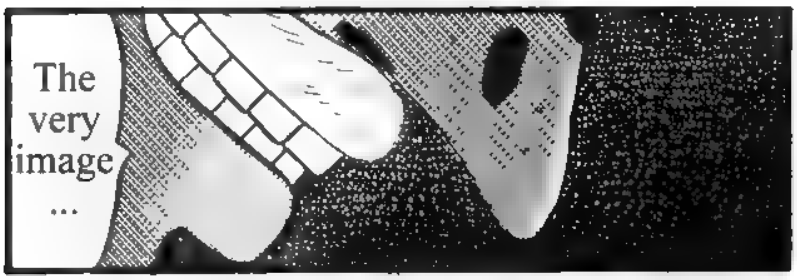
The money ...!

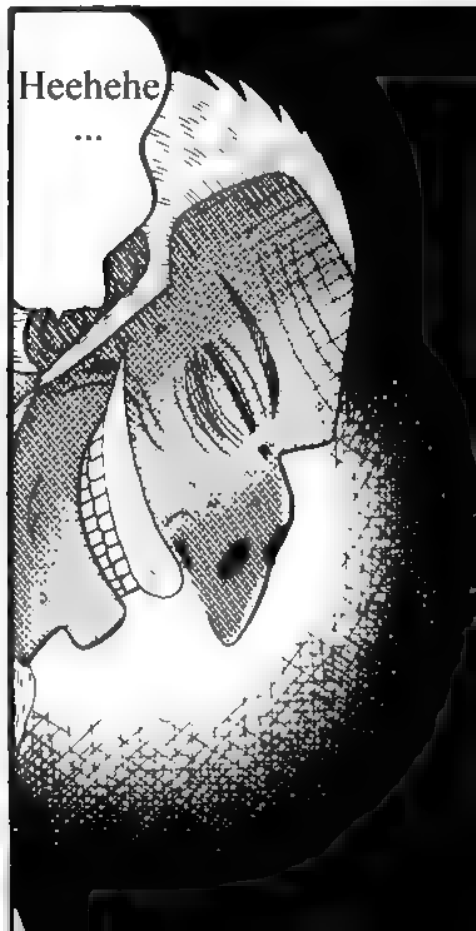
It's enough money ...
...to completely change my life...
... and it's sitting before my very eyes.

I can't back down now...!

Alright ...!
I'll bet my fingers ...!



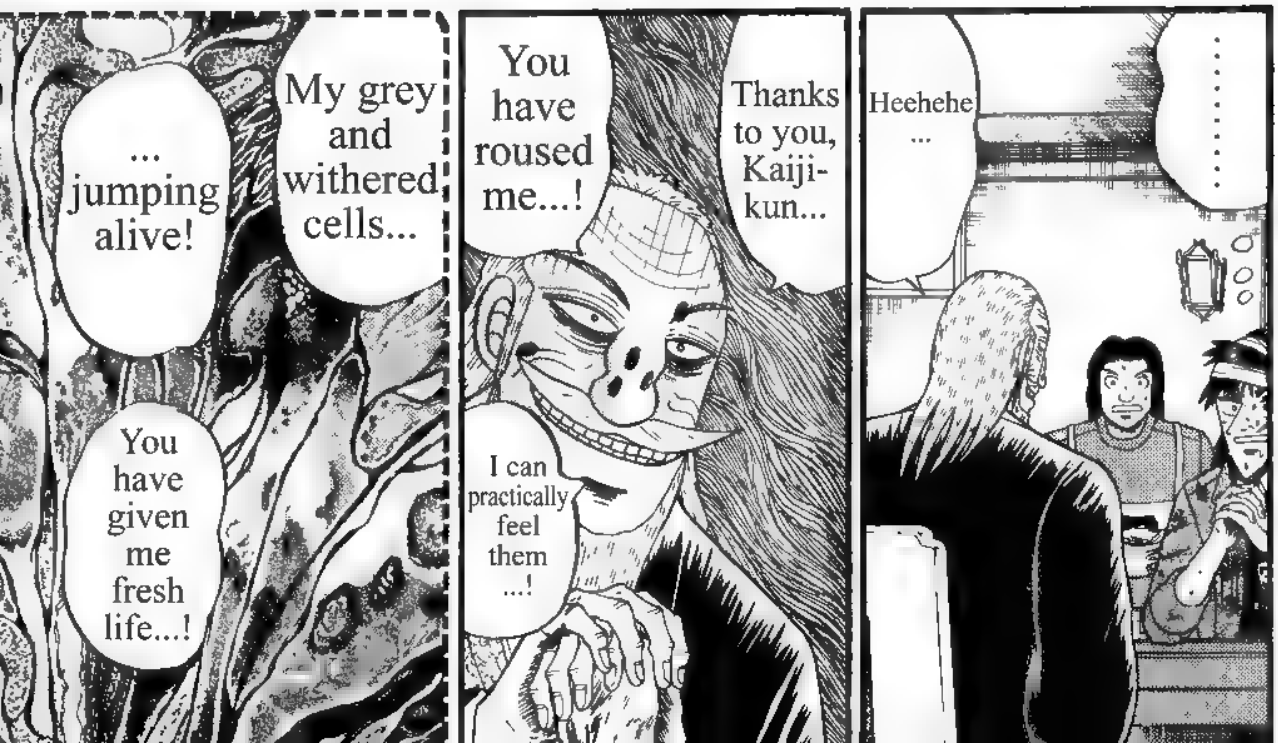

The very image ...

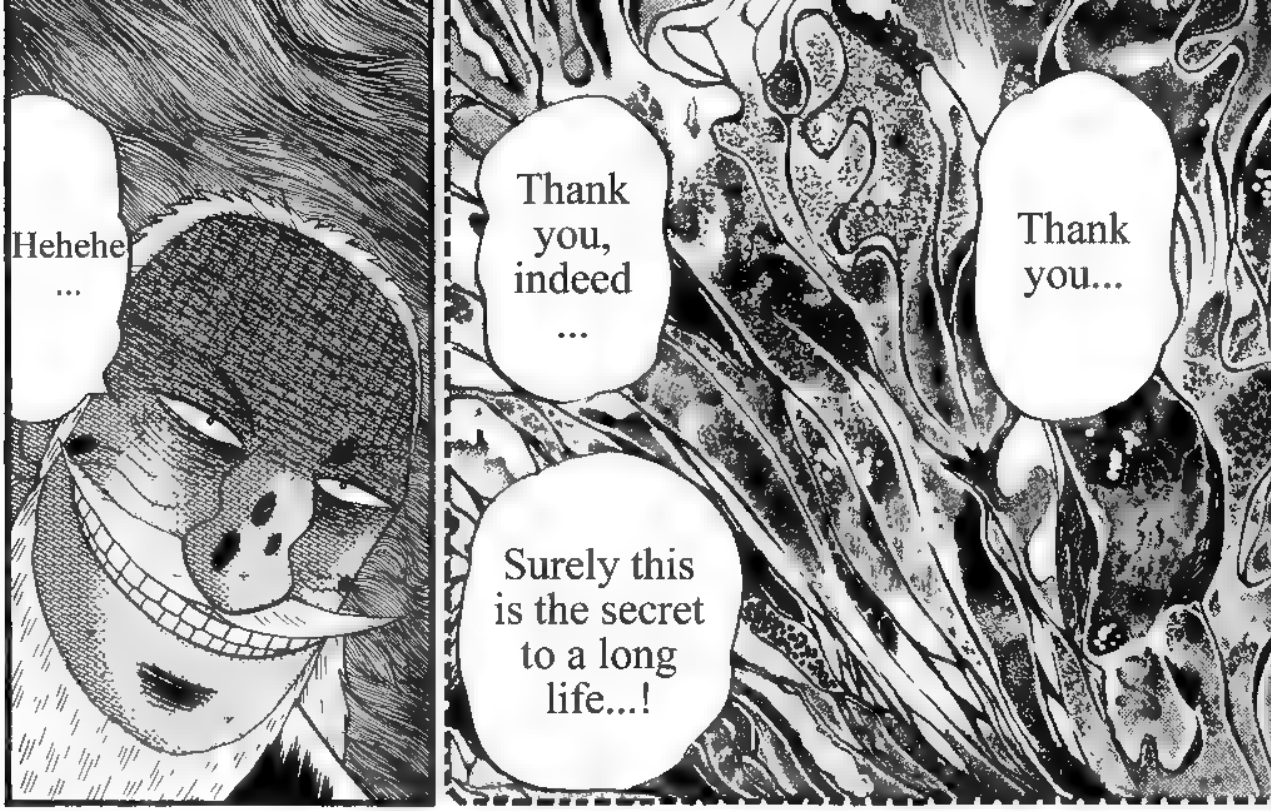

Heehehe ...

... Kaiji-kun!

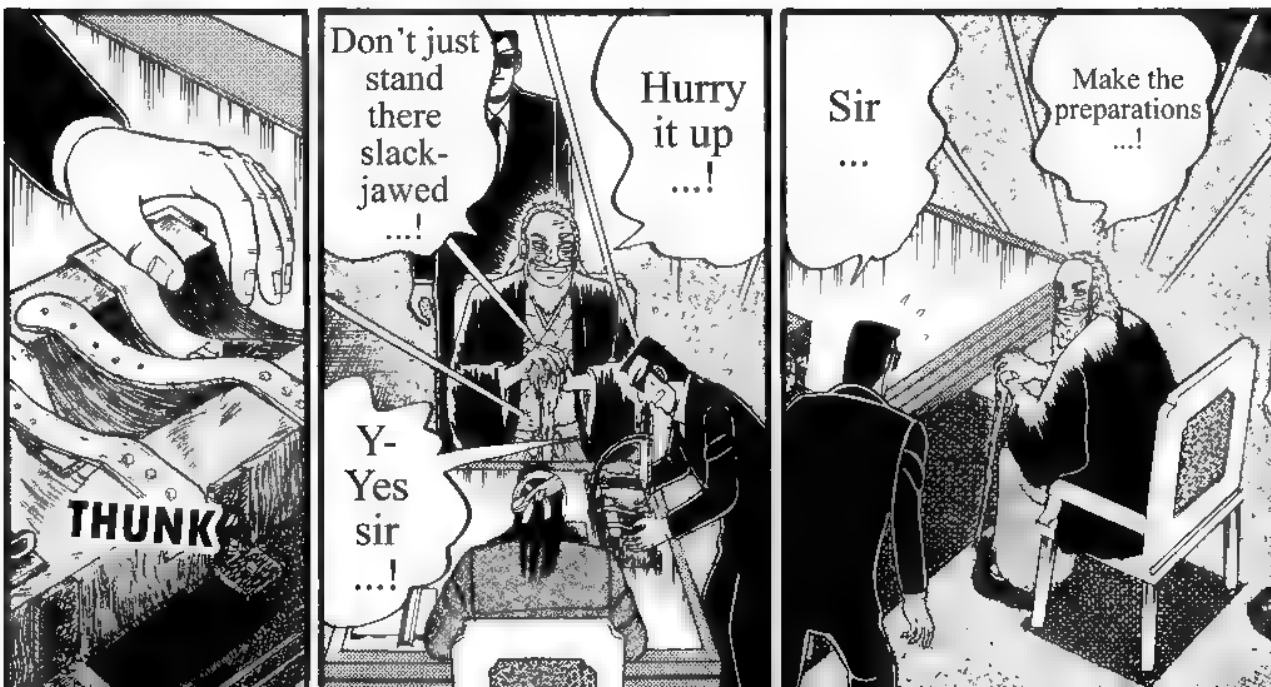
... chasing after his dreams.
... of the young man...
Truly marvelous ...

Wide awake ...!
I am feeling awake, now...!


Heehehe ...
.....
Thanks to you, Kaiji-kun...
You have roused me...!
I can practically feel them ...!
My grey and withered cells...
... jumping alive!
You have given me fresh life...!

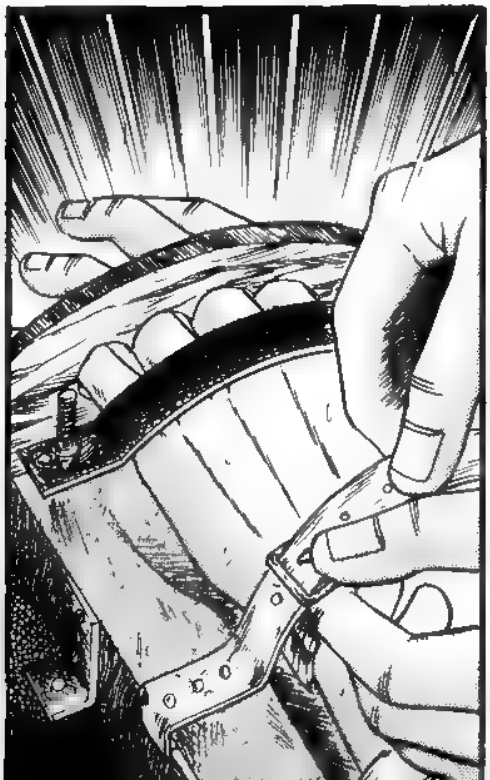

Hehehe ...
Thank you, indeed ...
Thank you...
Surely this is the secret to a long life...!

.....

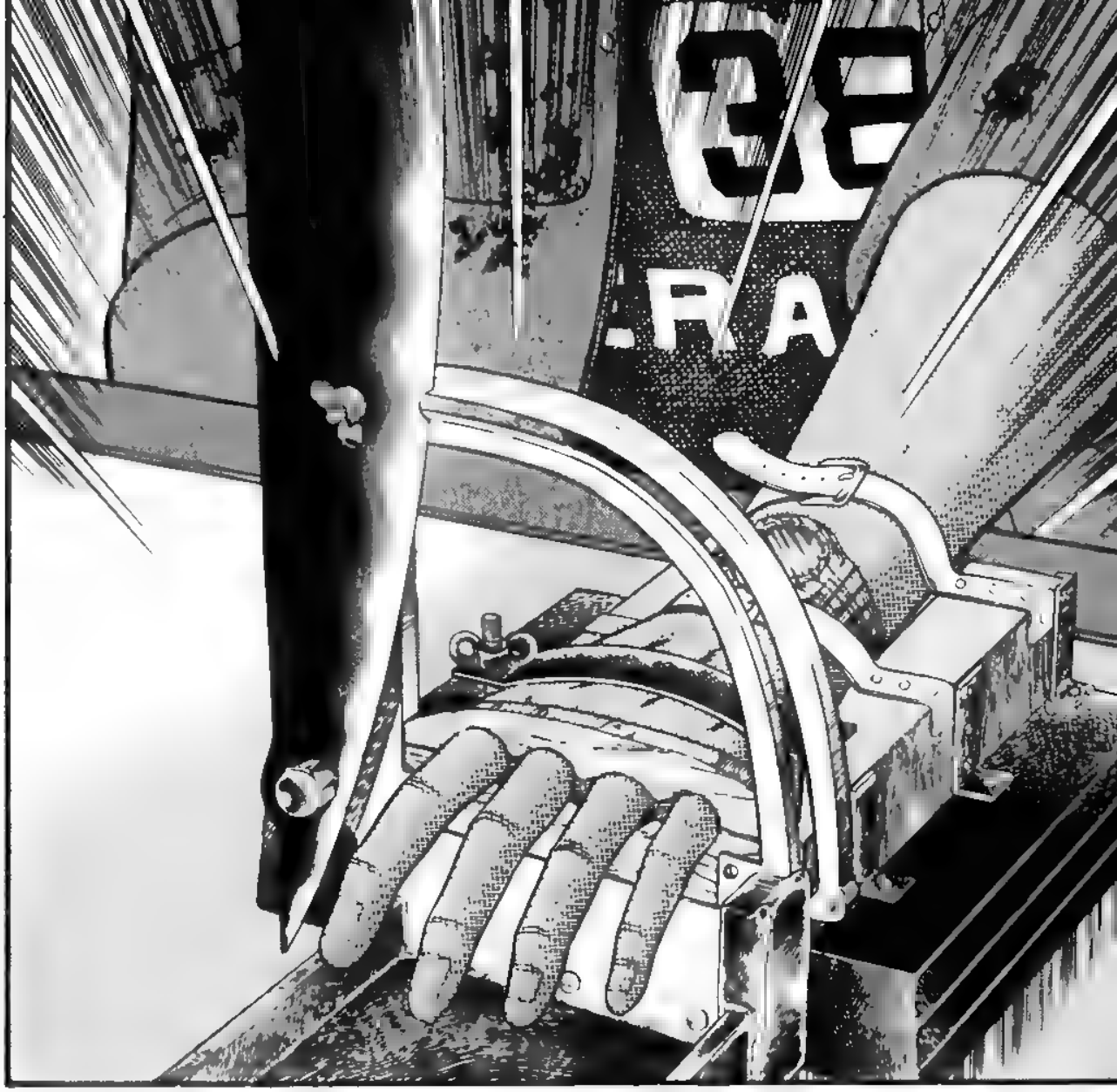

THUNK
Don't just stand there slack-jawed ...!
Hurry it up ...!
Y- Yes sir ...!
Sir ...
Make the preparations ...!

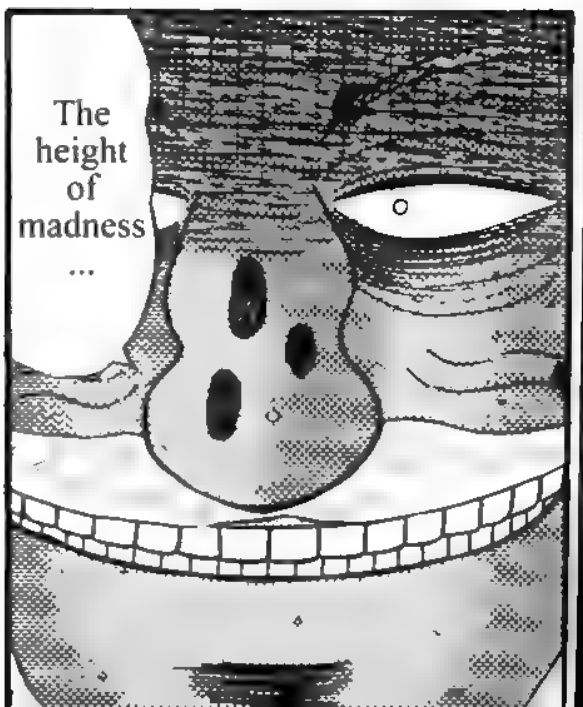
38

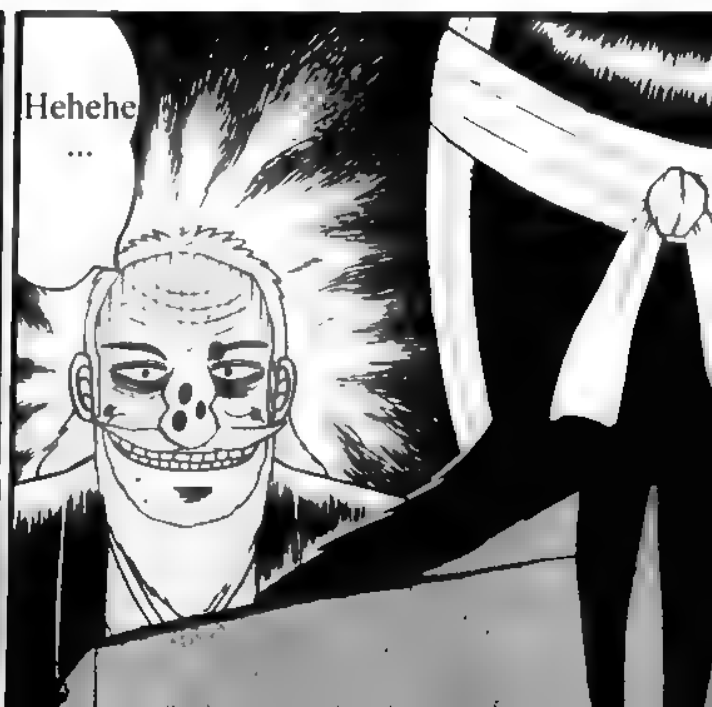
ざわ…



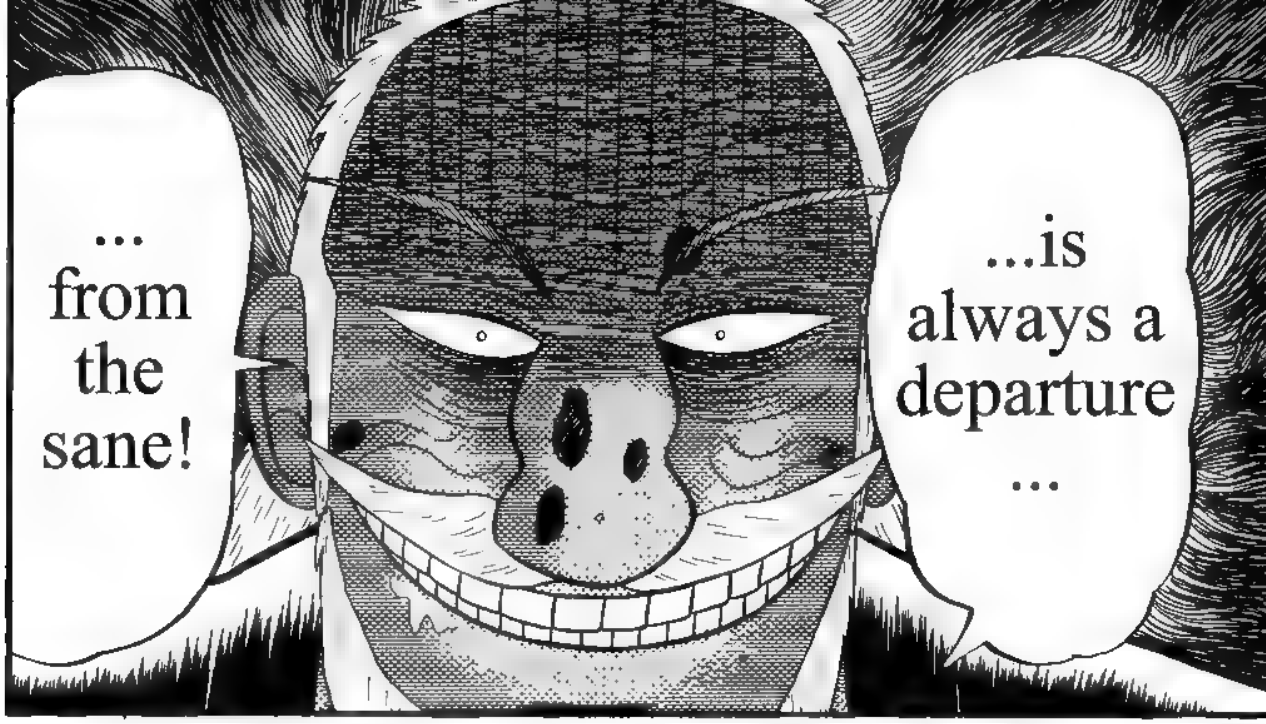
Ngh
...!

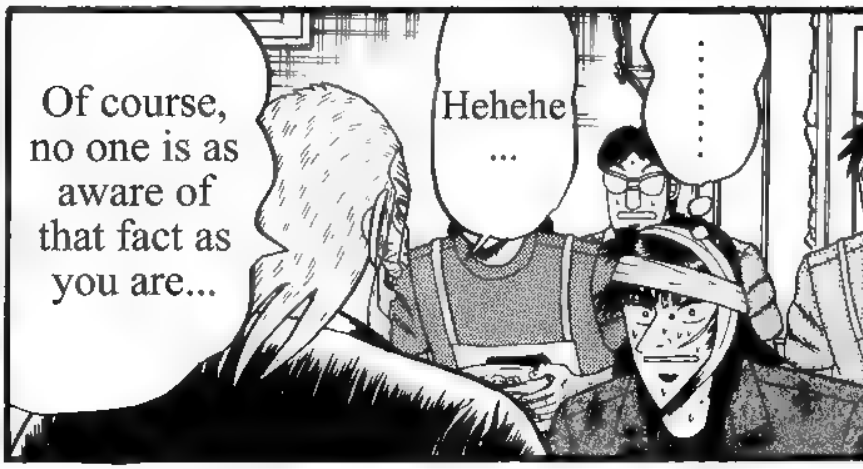


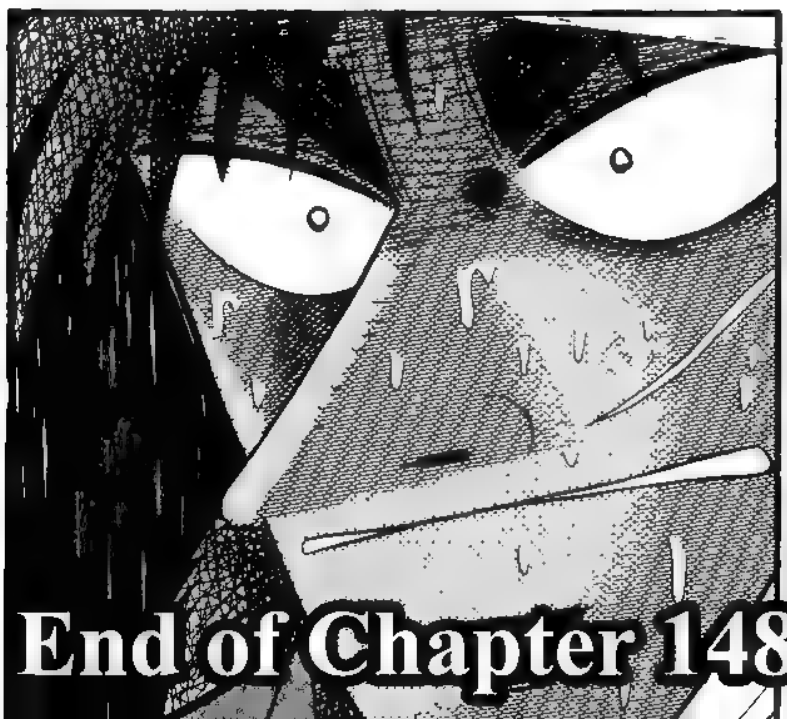

The height of madness ...


Hehehe ...

Don't you agree ...?
.....
... the sheer and utter height of madness ...
Surely this is ...
Yet one of us has bet 100 mil. yen ...
...by the slightest gust...
...could be blown away...
These mere scraps of paper ...
... our actions here are less than sane!
...20 mil. and his very fingers upon them.
...and the other ...
Truly ...
Happiness ...
...true unalloyed bliss...
However ...
.....

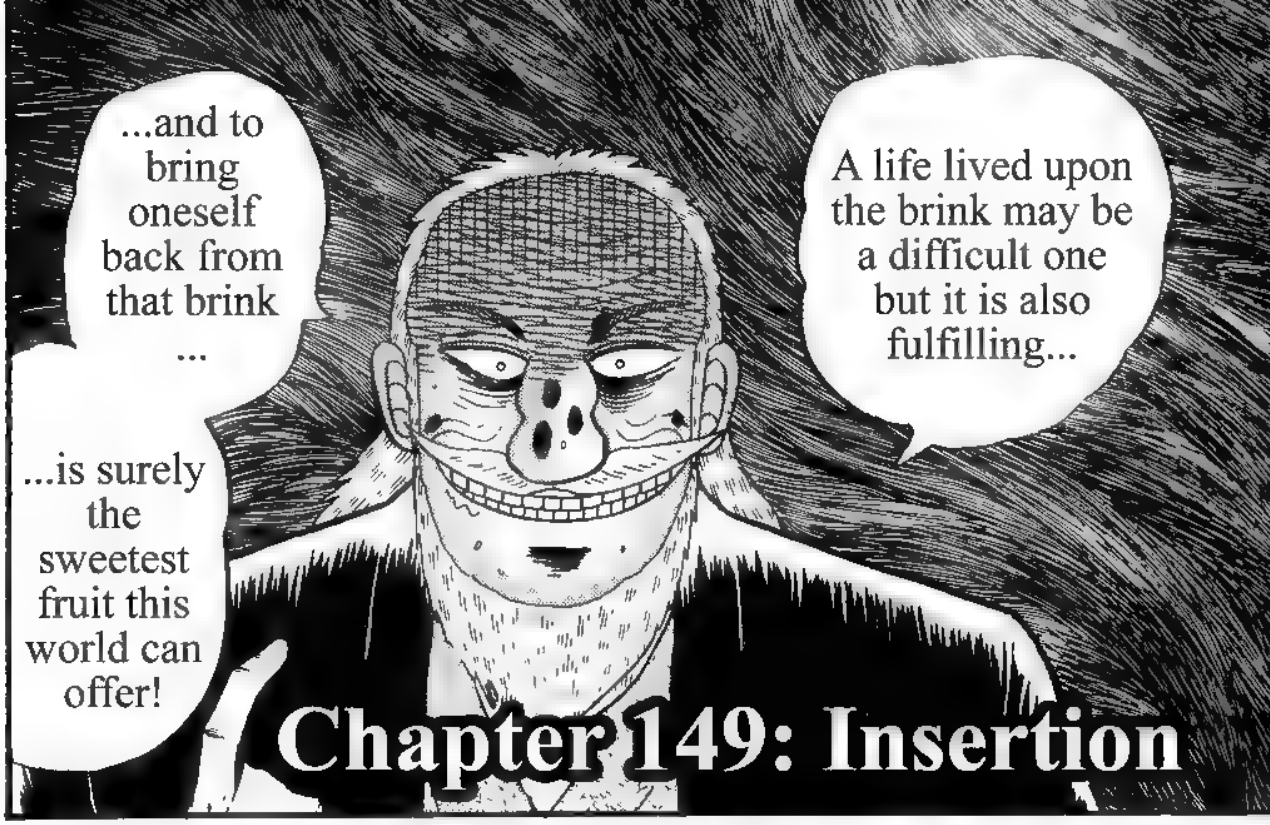


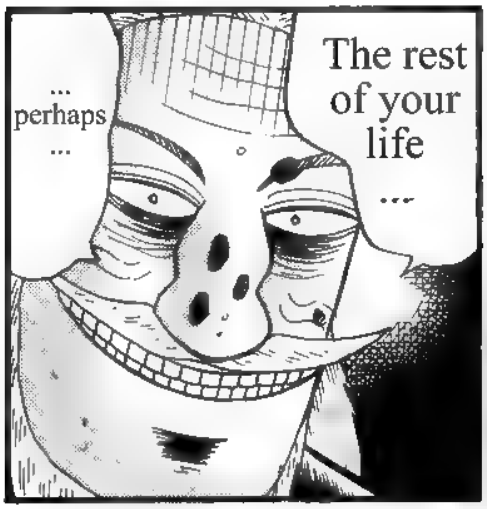




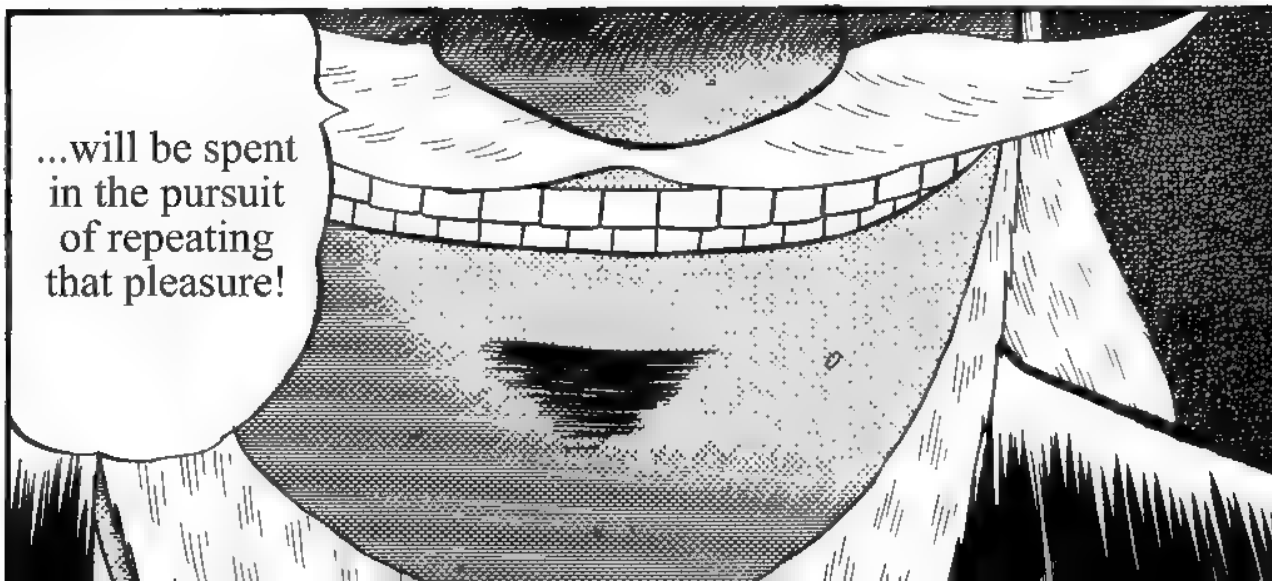
End of Chapter 148

When you crossed the bridge ...
...and survived ...
...or when you won at Emperor ...
...and felt the rush of joy and relief...
...the happiness you felt...
...must have been truly powerful!

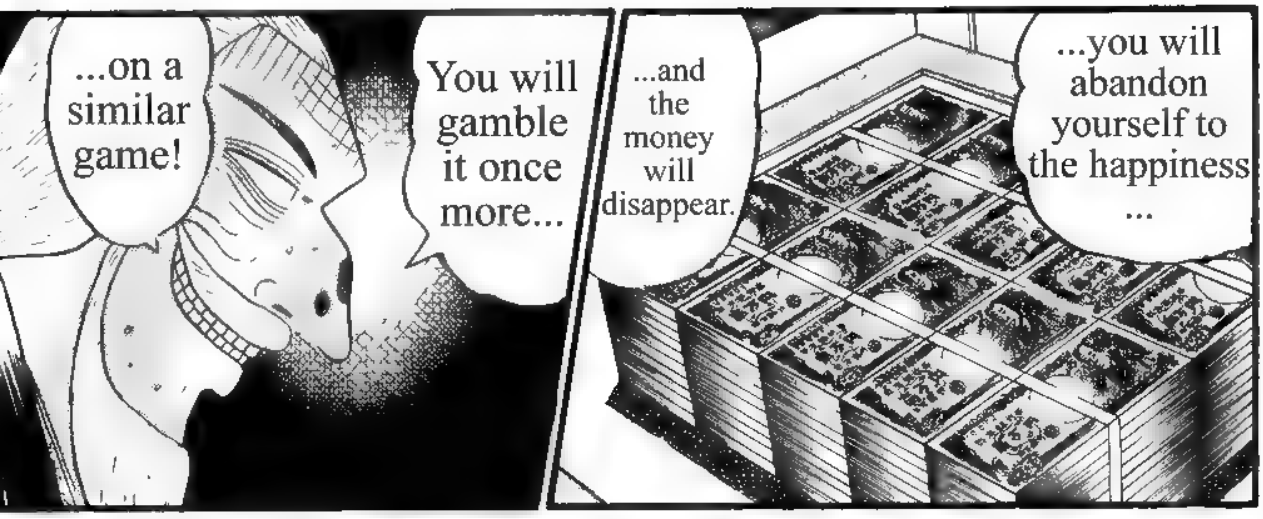

...and to bring oneself back from that brink ...
...is surely the sweetest fruit this world can offer!
A life lived upon the brink may be a difficult one but it is also fulfilling...
Chapter 149: Insertion

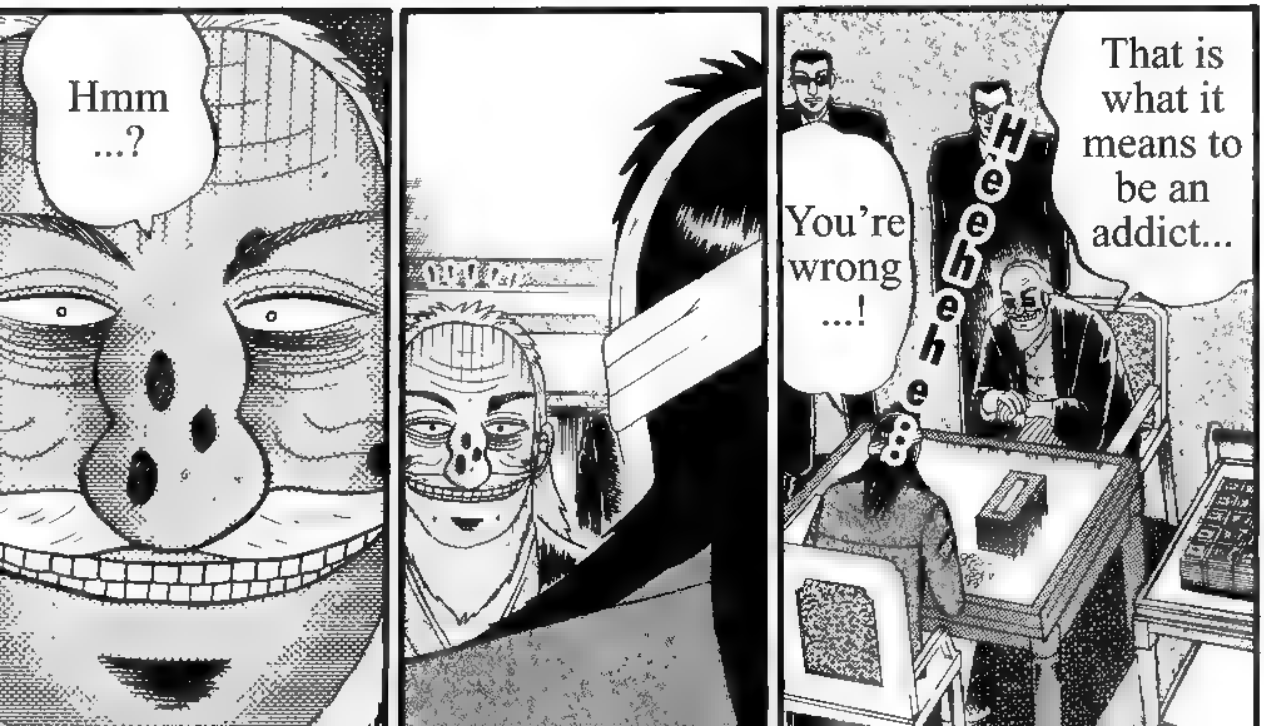

... perhaps ...
The rest of your life ...

Your brain has also been fried, addicted to that rush...!
Felicity of overwhelming proportions ...!


...will be spent in the pursuit of repeating that pleasure!

Which means ...
... that even should you win 100 million yen today ...
Hehehe
.....
2


You will gamble it once more...
...on a similar game!
...and the money will disappear.
...you will abandon yourself to the happiness ...


Hmm ...?
That is what it means to be an addict...
You're wrong ...!
Hehehehe

If I win here ...
Enough of this hell...!

I've had enough of this ...!

This is my last game.
I'll be free ...
This is it ...

Got it ...?
...then I'm washing my hands of this.

Free
...
...
from this
unending
nightmare!

Heehehe
...

O-
Okay
...!
...on
top of
his 100
million!
Put my
money
down...
.....
4
4

Here ...?
Yeah ...
4

It's yours ...!
That leaves an extra 100 thousand yen...
You actually have 20.1 mil. yen ...
4

Ummm ...
?.....

...I'll be able to share something with everyone!
Once I win ...
11

Huh ...?
100 thousand yen is no big deal.
4

You've all helped me a lot ...
...treating my wounds and taking care of me...
O-Okay ...
You might just need their help again...
Hesese...
Need their help again ...
... treating your wounds!

Hehehe
...
.....

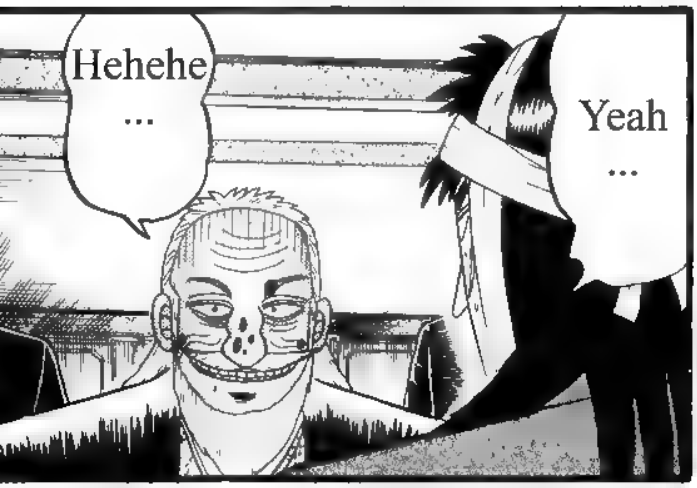
Now then
...
I believe it's time we began
...
.....

Hehehe
...

... and in failing ...
...or if you fail ...

... whether you leave here with 120 million yen...
A game to decide...

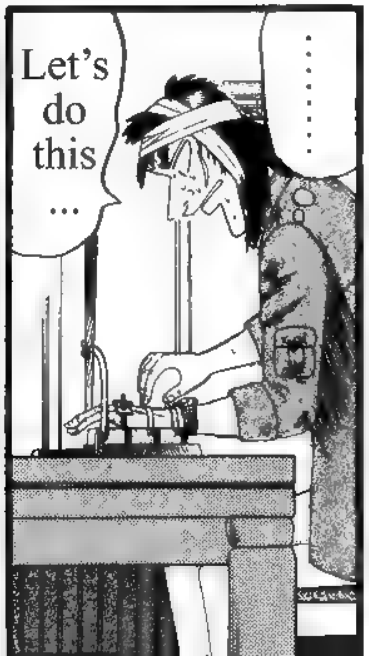
...
lose your fingers in the process!


Hehehe ...
Yeah ...

Are you ready ...?
.....

The other tickets ...

Wait ...!


Let's do this ...
.....

...should be inserted by the both of us!
... are fine, but the winning one...

That's crazy ...!
...or even manage to hide it somewhere inside!

Otherwise you might only pretend to insert it...

Now that he mentions it...
.....

No ...
How would he do that ...?

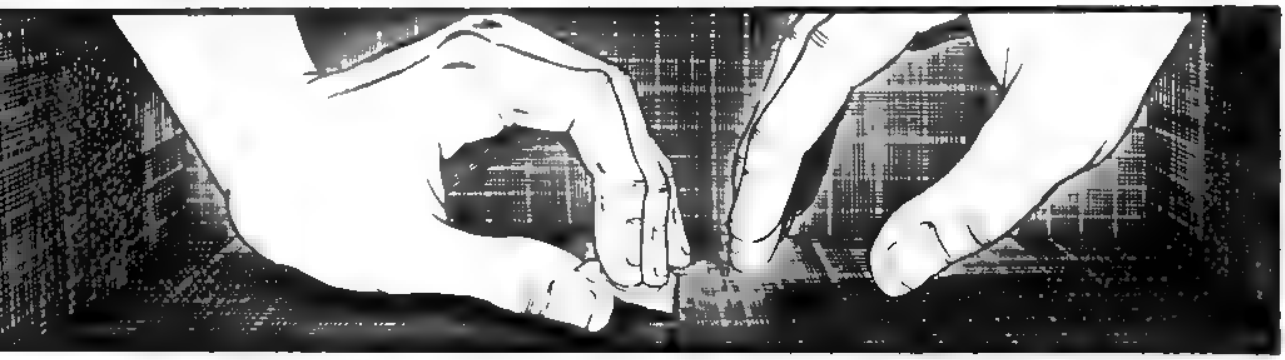
Now then ...
Hmph ...
I hadn't thought of that...
...it is possible!
Wait ...!
Hehehe ...
...show me you haven't got anything hidden in your hand!
...that ticket ...
Before you touch ...
Whaddya expect ...!?
Overly cautious, aren't we...?

Behold ...!
FLAP
FWIP
Alright ...
Yeah ...
Will that do...?
Well ...?
Enough, enough ...
Hehehe
...my turn...

Now then ...
I trust you will do nothing untoward.
You don't need to show me your hands ...
...let's do this together ...
REACH
Place the ticket ...
.....

10
inside the box!

FWUP

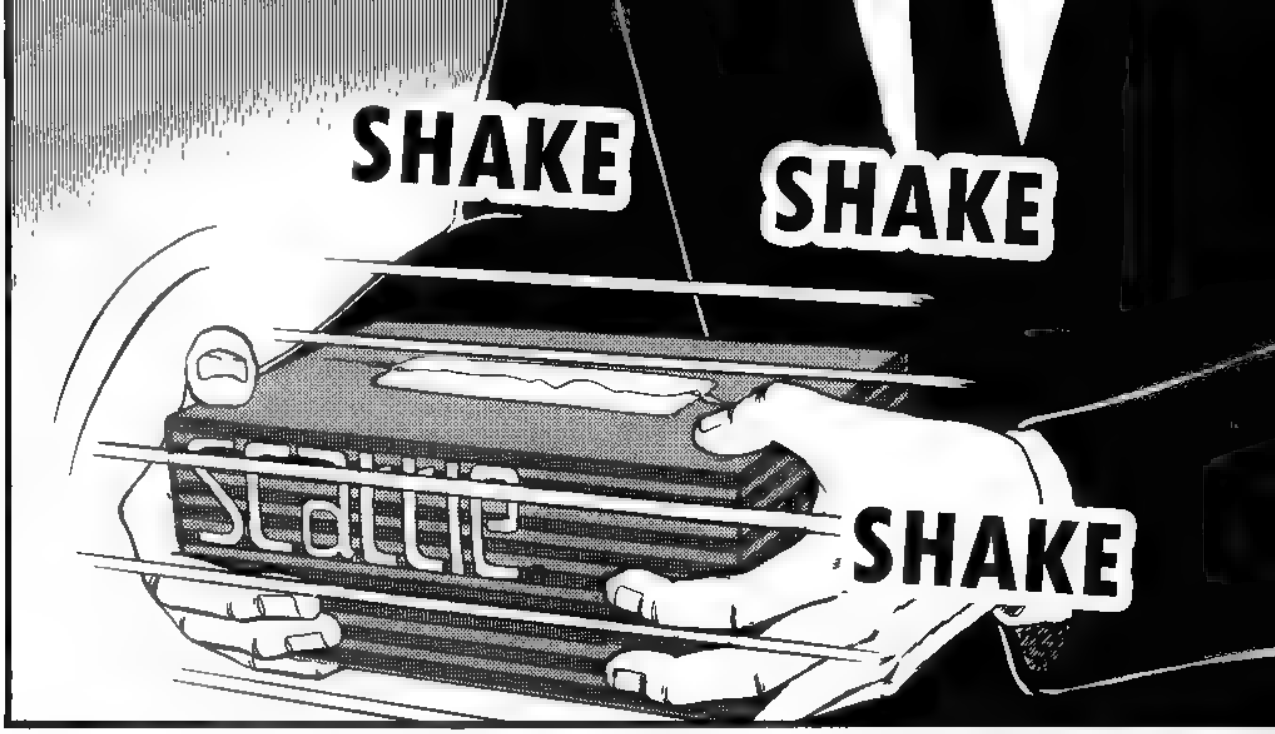


FWIP

FWIP

SHAKE
SHAKE
Seattle
.....
.....
Will that do ...?
SHAKE
.....
.....
SHAKE
SHAKE
Seattle
... let me stick...
Alright ...
Yeah ...
.....

And shake them up...!
SHAKE
RUSTLE
...the rest of the tickets in!
RUSTLE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE



End of Chapter 149

SHAKE

SHAKE

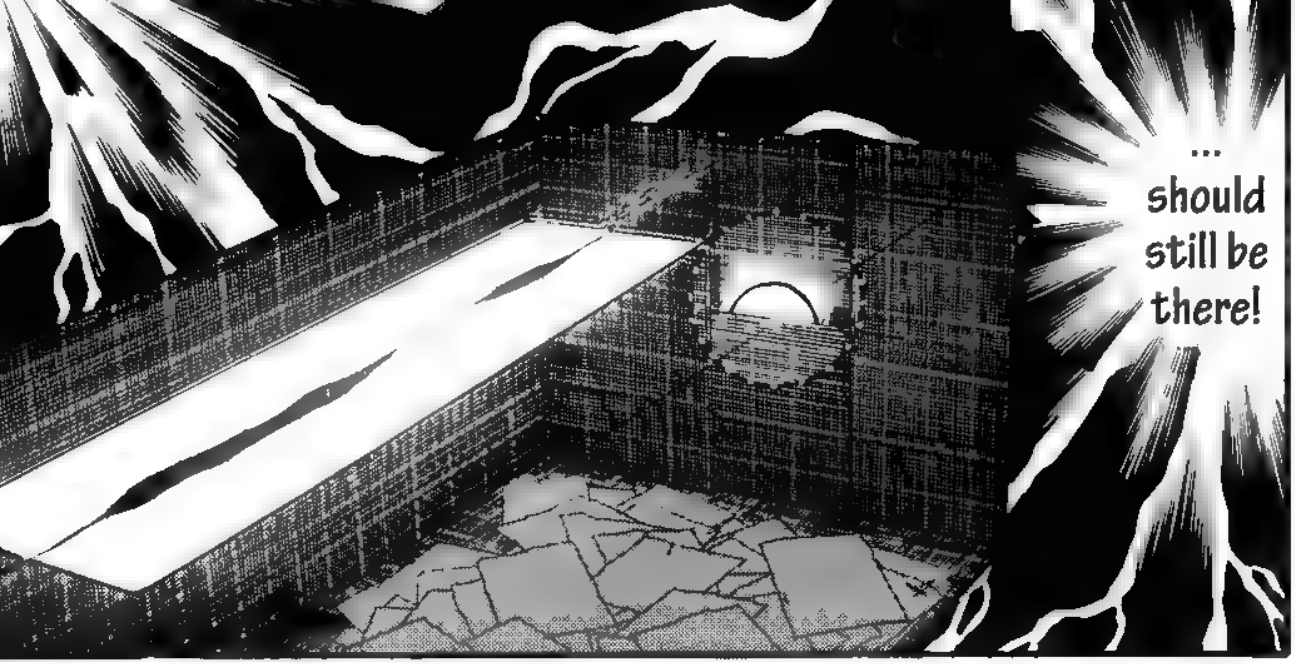
SHAKE

THUNK

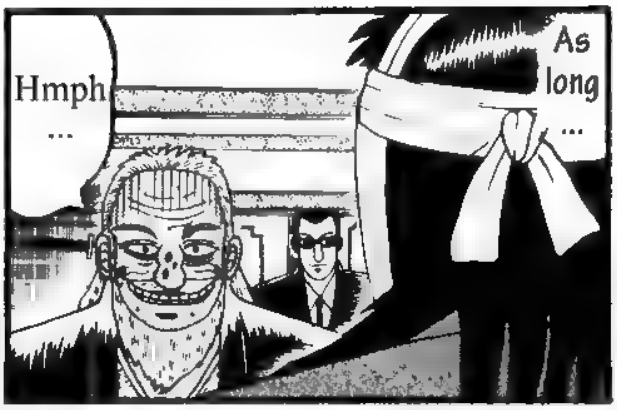
As long as the ticket doesn't shake loose!!!

Chapter 150: Good Luck

I'm fine ...!

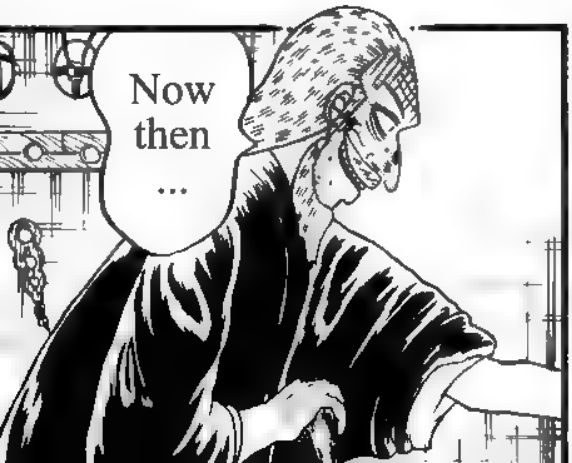

...
should still be there!

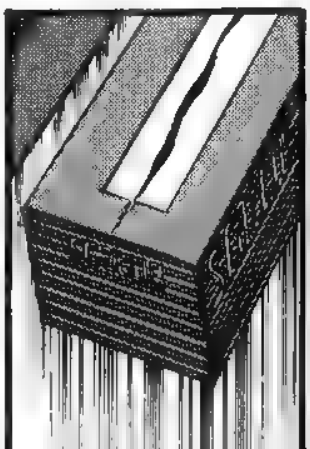
...doesn't draw a winning ticket in the first round I'm clear...
... as the director ...


Hmph ...
As long ...

Hehehehe ...

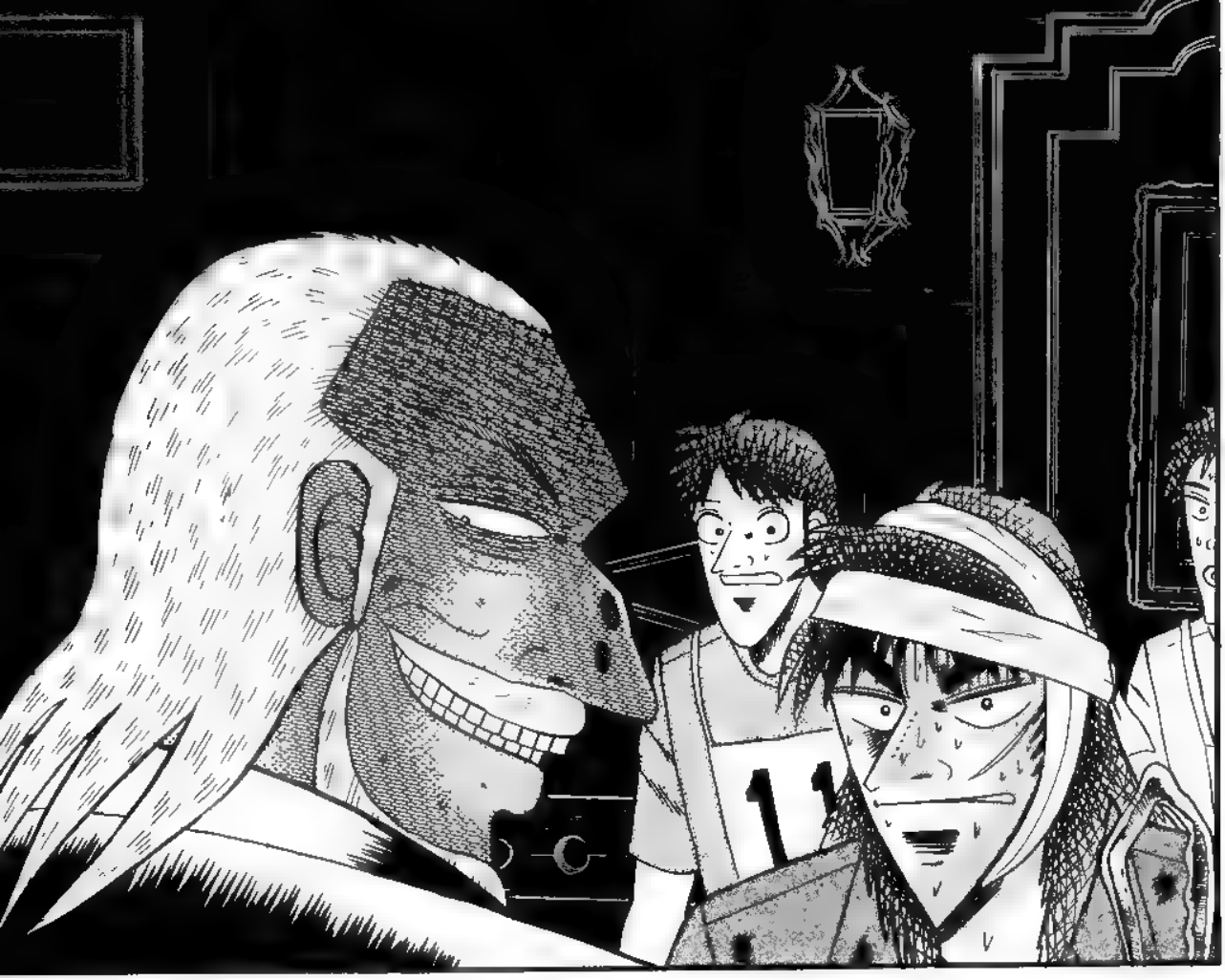
I'll win ...!


Now then ...



Here we go ...
I believe I'm first ...

The first draw ...!
Seattle
Seattle
2011 FACIAL TISSUE



Don't pick it...!

Ngh ...!

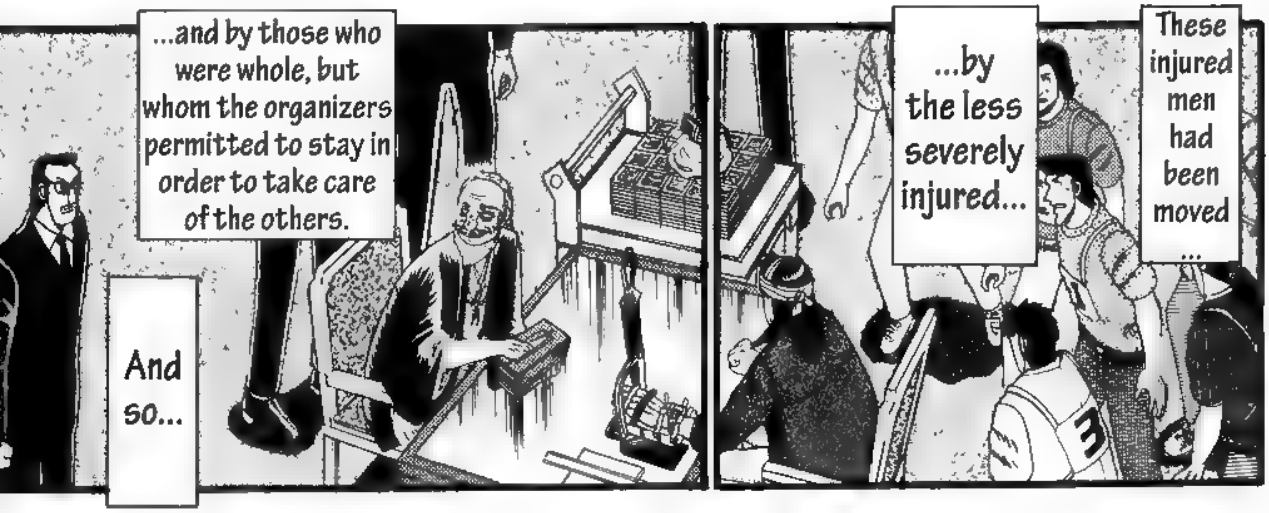
Please, whatever else happens ...

...just don't pick that ticket on the first round!

I've won...!
...of the remaining tickets in the other tissue boxes...
However...
...that player No. 5 returned from the toilet, having disposed...
It was at that point...
...had entered the room behind him.
A dozen odd people...
Huh...?
...No. 5 was not the only one to return to the room.

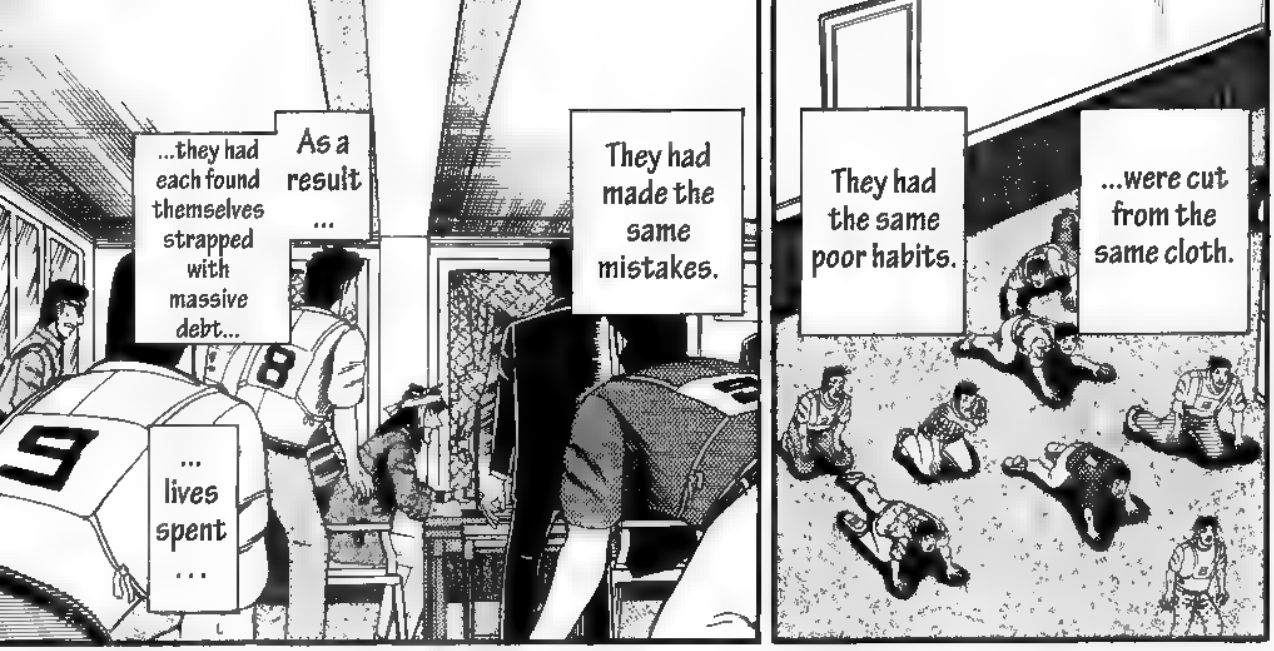
...from the very first bridge!
It was the seriously injured...

...but during Kaiji and Tonegawa's match they had been moved...
Originally they had been in the room as well...
They had come, crawling, back into the room ...!
...into another room in order to rest.


...and by those who were whole, but whom the organizers permitted to stay in order to take care of the others.
...by the less severely injured...
These injured men had been moved ...
And so...

...and removed ...
...been separated from the other young spectators...
...while the severely injured had, by order...
...and now, spurred on by...
...this turn of events ...
...they had continued to watch the action from afar...
...from the main floor partway through the match, nevertheless...
...of the blacksuits ...

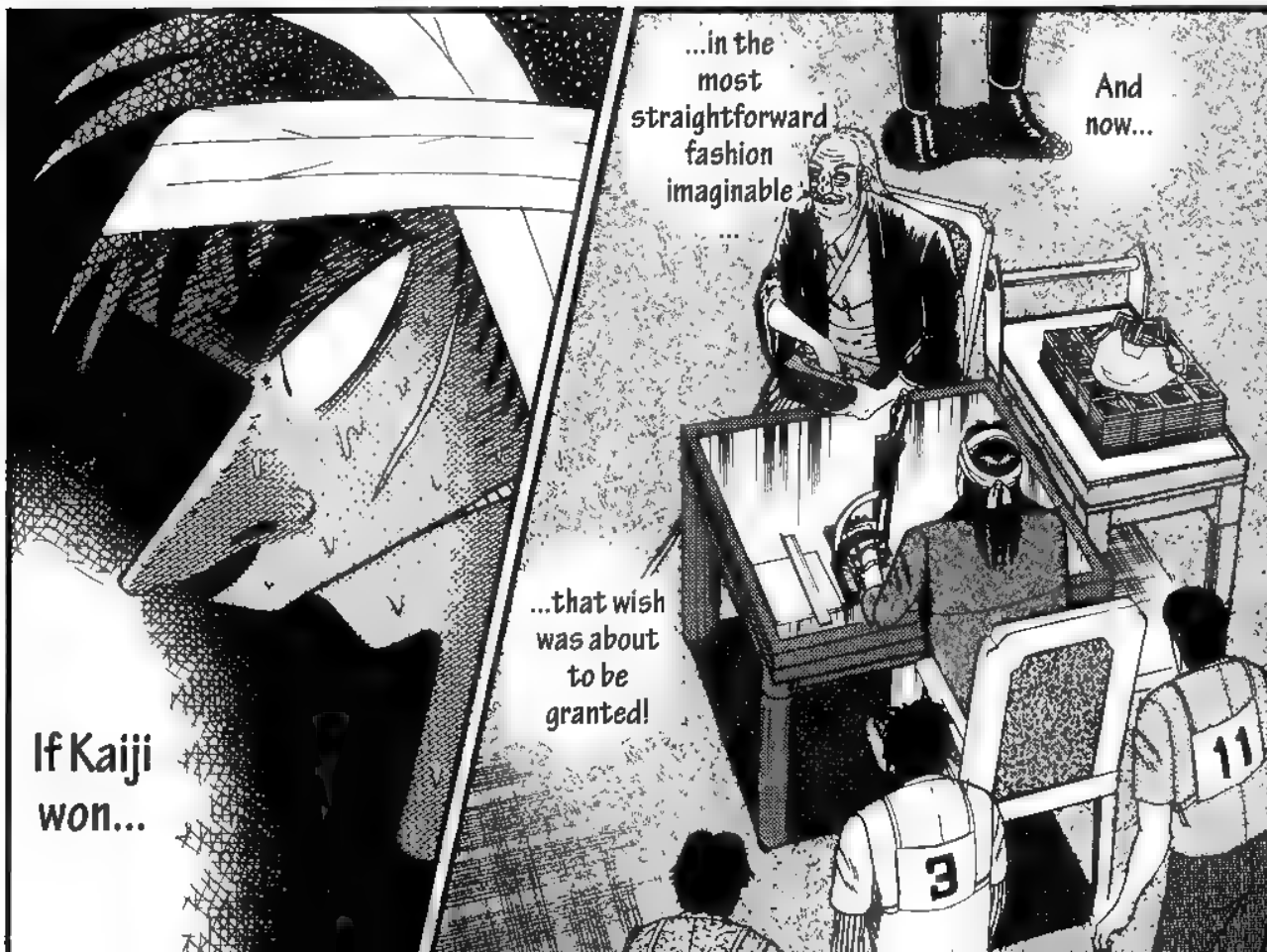
To return in camaraderie ...!

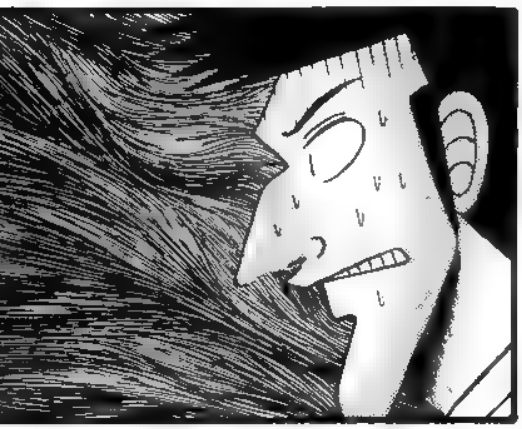

They had made the same mistakes.
As a result ...
...they had each found themselves strapped with massive debt...
... lives spent ...
They had the same poor habits.
...were cut from the same cloth.

To cast off this accursed life...
An escape ...
...full of apathy, regret and despair...
... crawling from one day to the next ...

...but in the course of an instant...
Not over time...
... and escape!

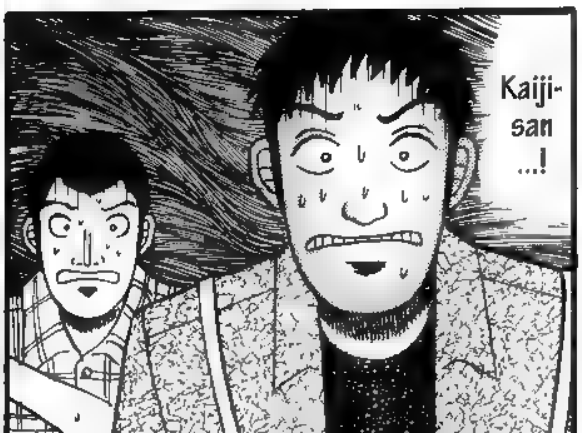
Their greatest hope ...!
...and it was Kaiji's ...
It was their dream ...


If Kaiji won...
...that wish was about to be granted!
...in the most straightforward fashion imaginable ...
And now...
3
11

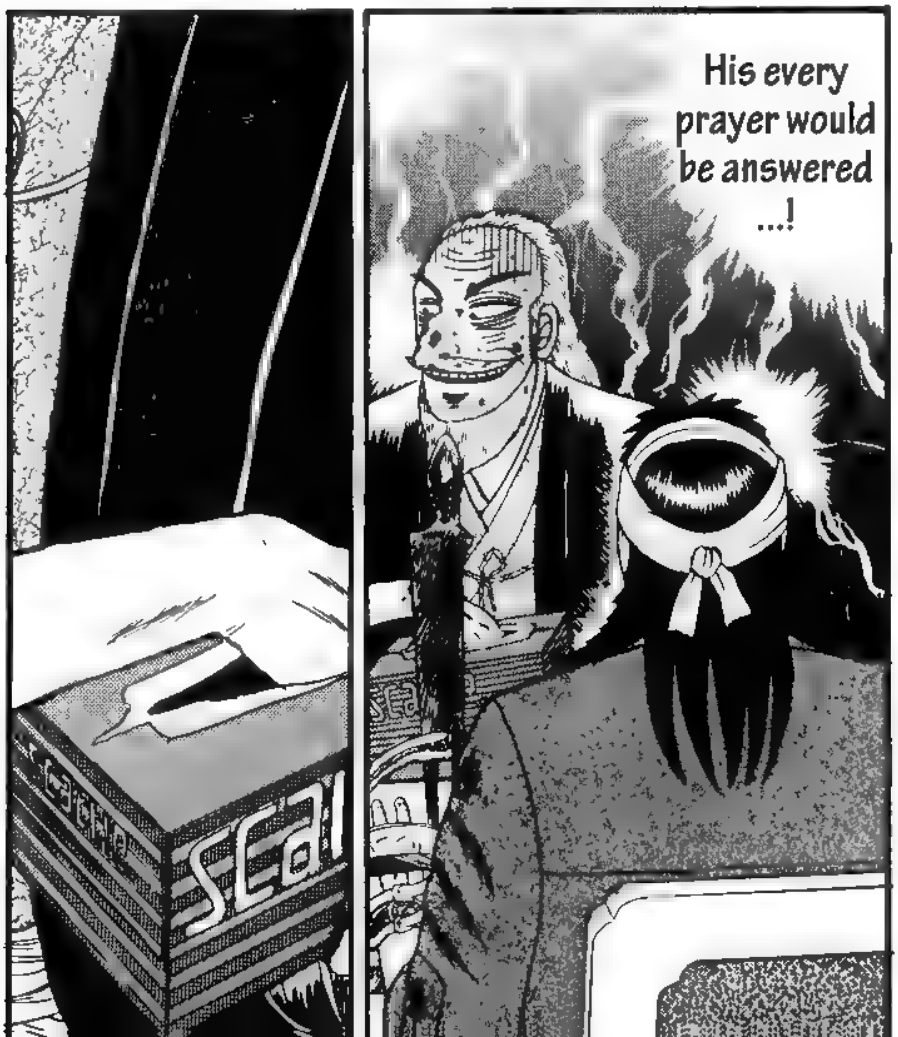


Kaiji-san ...

If he won ...



...he would be reborn!

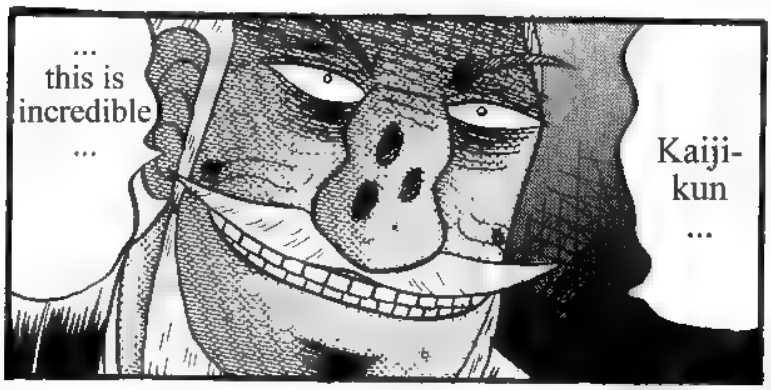


FWIP
scatrip

Ngh ...!

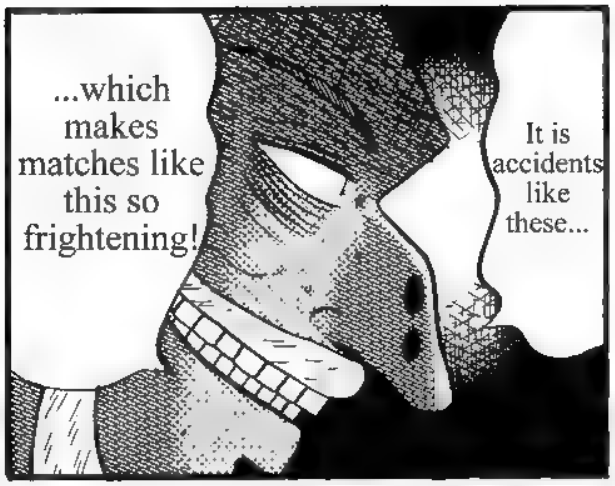
10
2
11
Oh...?

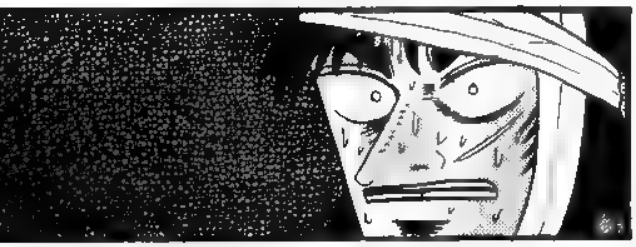
Could it be...?
Oh my ...
.....


... this is incredible ...
Kaiji-kun ...

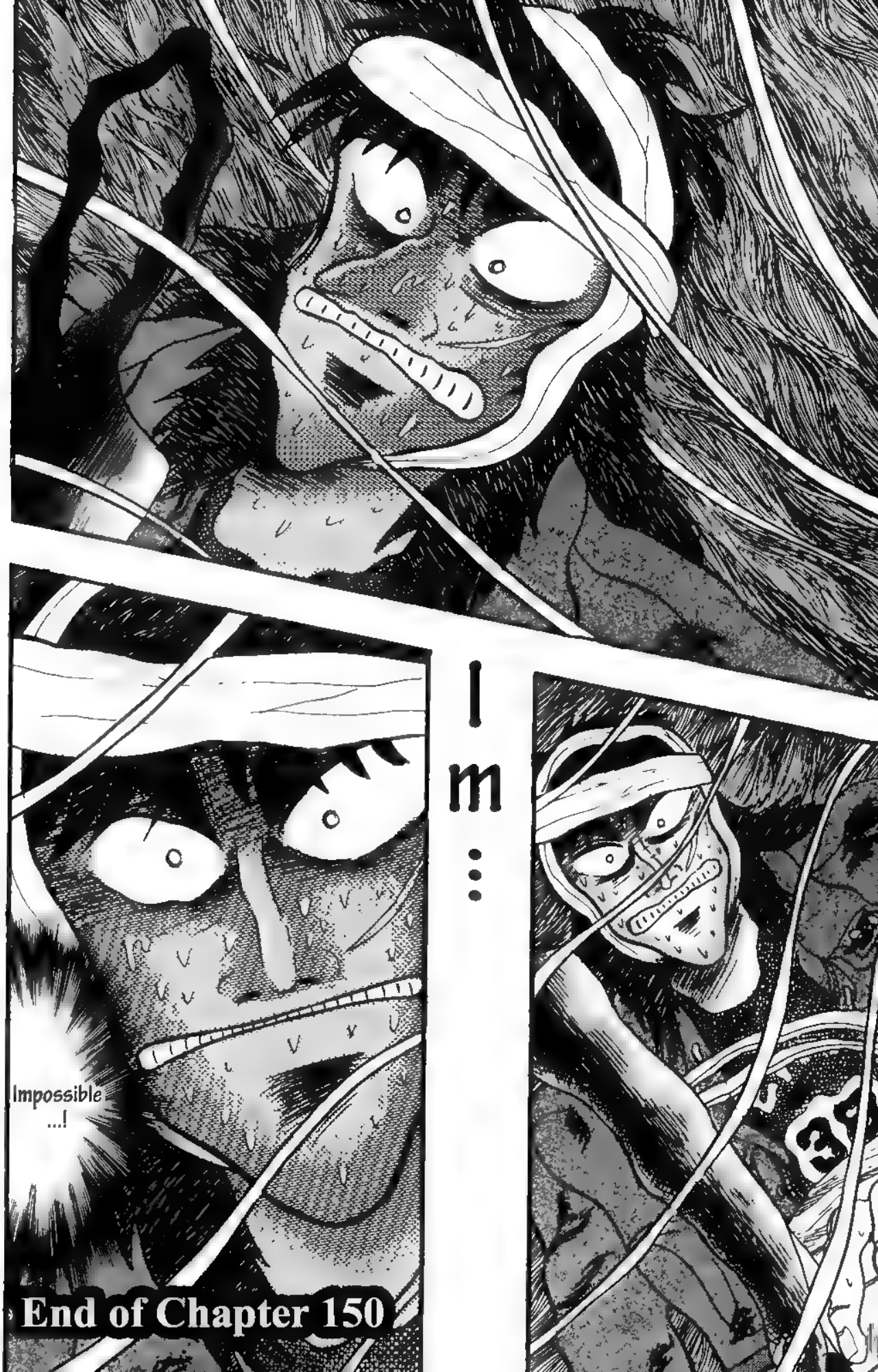
Hehehe ...

What ...!?
Who could have foreseen such a thing happening ...?





An event which cannot be planned for...!


I
m
...
Impossible
...!
End of Chapter 150

Chapter 151: Aghast

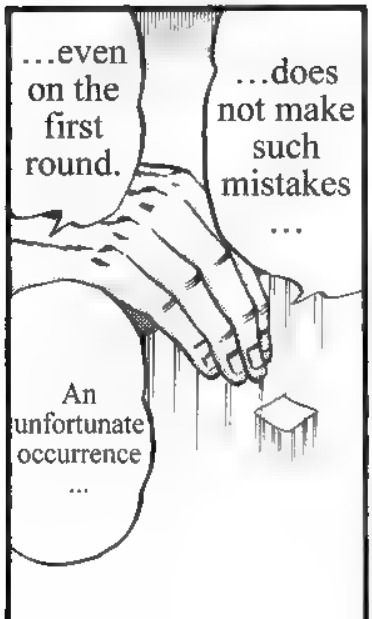
...on a single match!

...picked the winning ticket!?

Hehehehehe
...
Something like this can occur ...!
Ngh ...!

Hmph ...
You rotten old corpse ...!
.....

Hehehe ...!
Ahh ..!

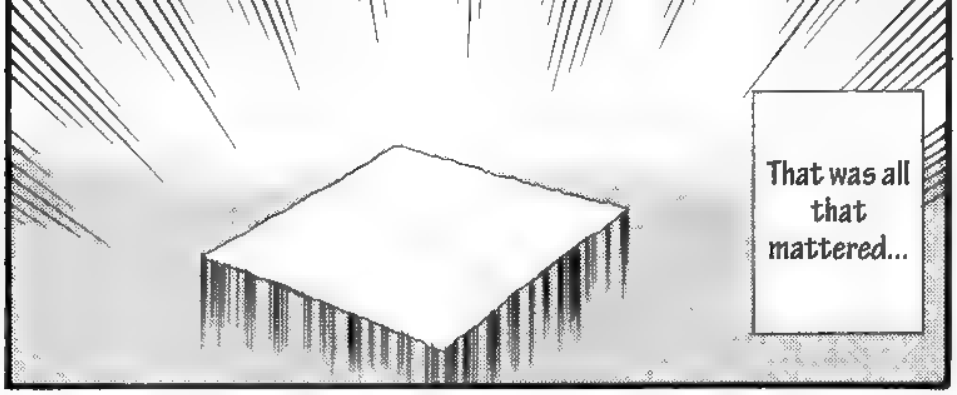

...even on the first round.
...does not make such mistakes ...
An unfortunate occurrence ...

Usually the 'King' ...
Most unusual ...!

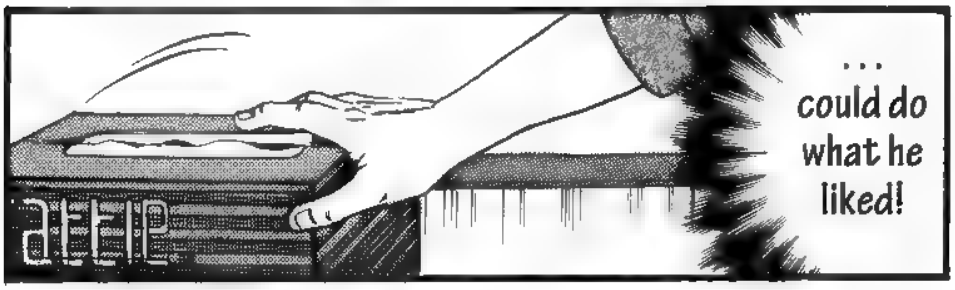
ざわ…
Heehehe…
…an important match!
…for such…
Wouldn't you agree…!?
ざわ…ざわ…
ざわ…
That geezer…!
……
He's toying with me…!
I'll show you who the King is…
That was just his poor idea of a joke…
Kaiji cursed the director silently…
…you doddering old fool!
…however…
…his anger was only momentary.

A new, more overwhelming emotion quickly took its place...!
And that emotion ...
... was relief!
Joyful euphoria ...!

It filled his heart ...
...and wrapped him in its glow!
It was alright ...!
He was all okay ...!
The rest was no longer important ...
The director hadn't done it...!



It was a fact...
...which nothing else could change. What did it matter...
...if the director made crude jokes...
...or toyed with him?
The director ...



He hadn't drawn the ticket!!!

FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
Since his opponent hadn't drawn the ticket first ...
It was time ...
.....
Fine, fine, go ahead ...
Hehehe ...
... his very eyes!
It was waiting before ...
Victory would be his ....!
...the match belonged to Kaiji!

...you have to act excited...
If I pull the winning ticket...
Just don't fail me...!
.....
3

That way the other winning ticket will get lost on the floor...
...and shake the box around and ruin it.
...make a scene...
...covering up the fact that there was a fake!

.....
...so you have to do it!
I can't move my left arm like this...
...you asked me to move the box closer!
Don't worry, I knew what you wanted to say the moment...
...Kaiji-san.
I understand...

Just leave it to me...!

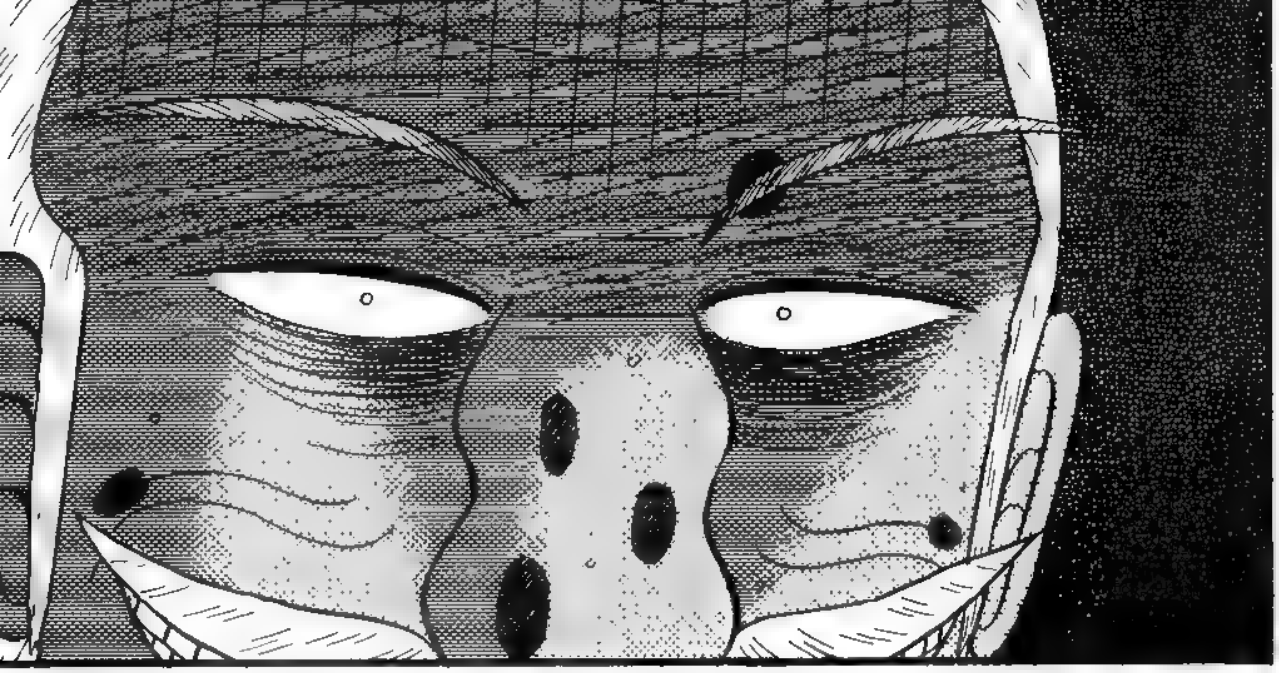
Here you go...!
THRUST

11
Okay ...!

Time to win ...!
100 million yen ...!

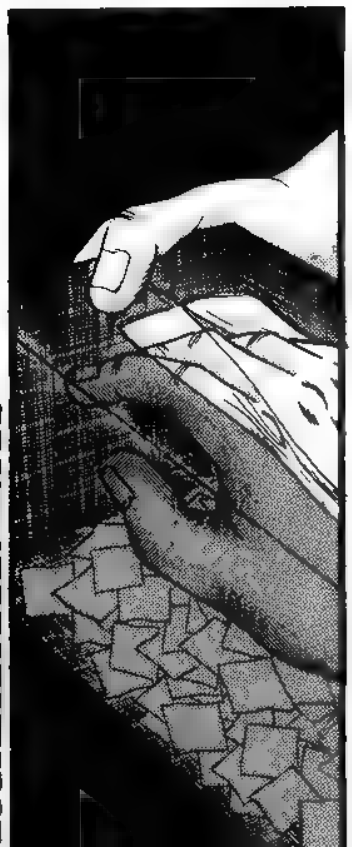
10
1

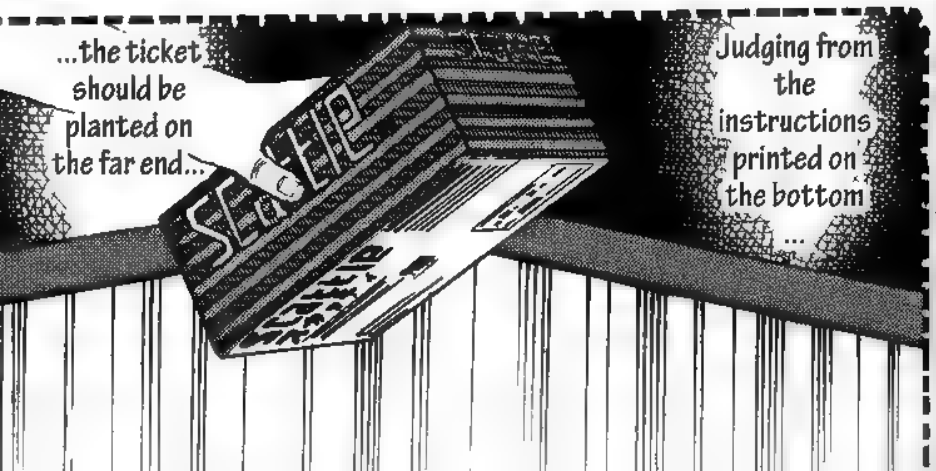
ざわ…



That's strange ...
11

Huh ...?




...the ticket should be planted on the far end...
Judging from the instructions printed on the bottom ...

Could he have turned the box around when he put it back down...?
But it's not there ...
The side closer to the director ...
In that case ...
11
GRAB
...it should be on my side!
SCRAPE

SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
What ...!?

This can't be...!

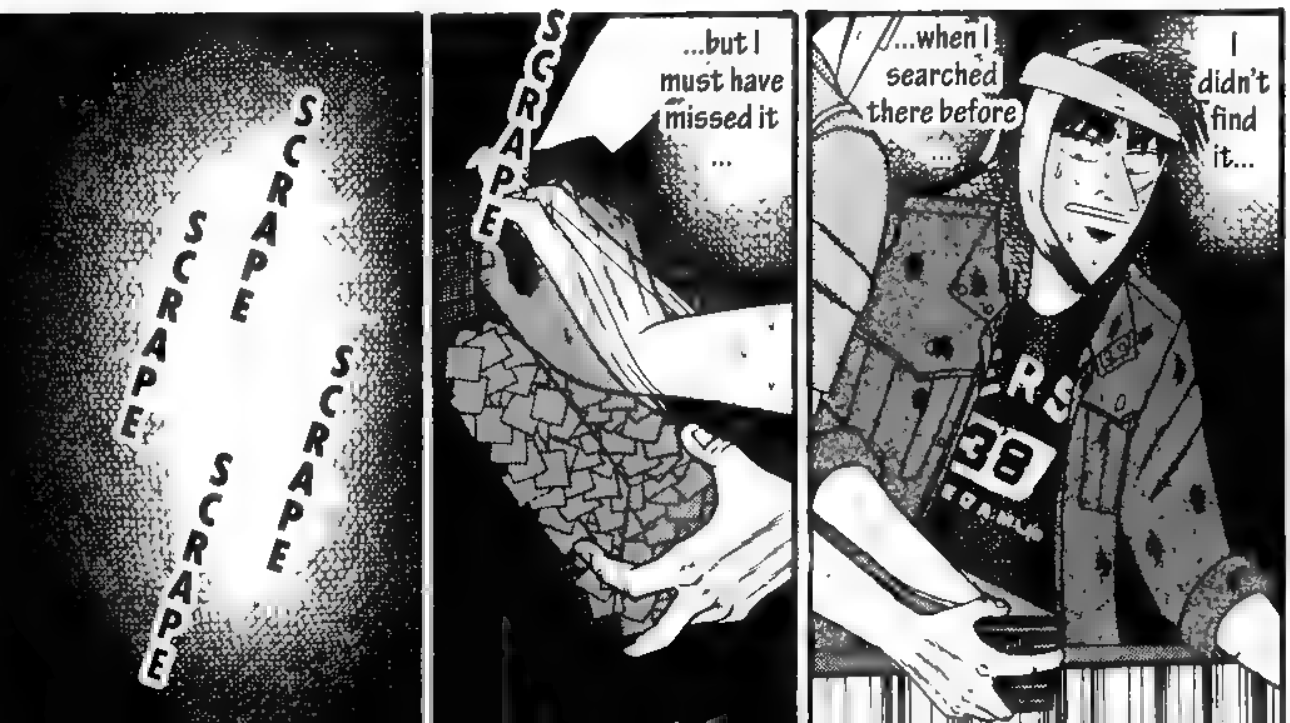
End of Chapter 151

Chapter 152: Lost

It can't ...!
This can't be...!
It can't ...!
GRAB
Ahh...!
How could this be...!?
Why isn't it there ...?
Why ...?
Impossible ...!
Ah ...!
Stretcher

It's the other side ...
PHEW
They're facing the other way...
The instructions ...

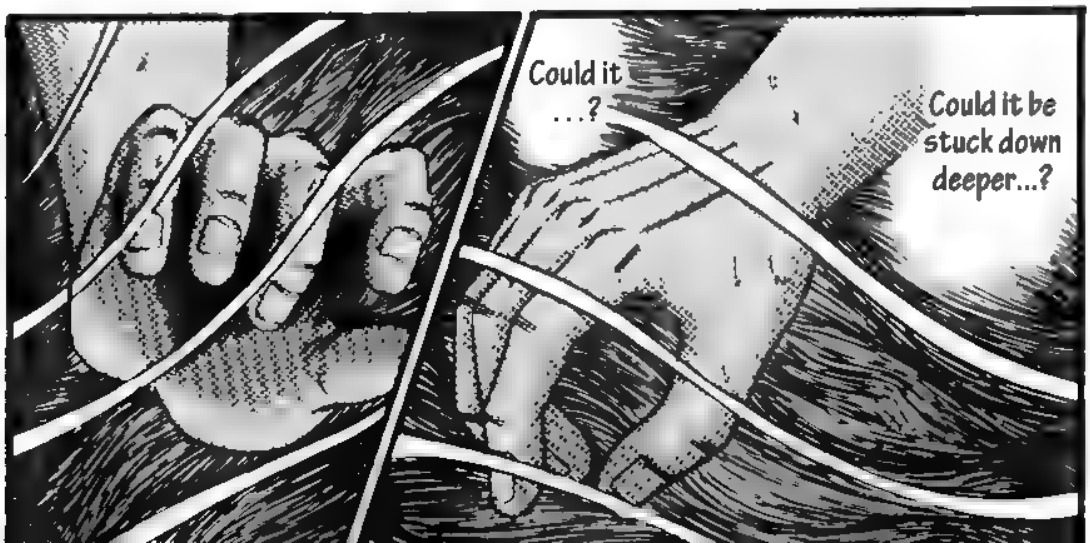
It's on the other side...
REACH
...it's planted on the other...
The ticket isn't planted on this side...


SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
...but I must have missed it ...
...when I searched there before ...
I didn't find it...

88
Ngh ...!
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE

Why ...!?
Did I accidentally
...push it in deeper
...with my finger?

But ...

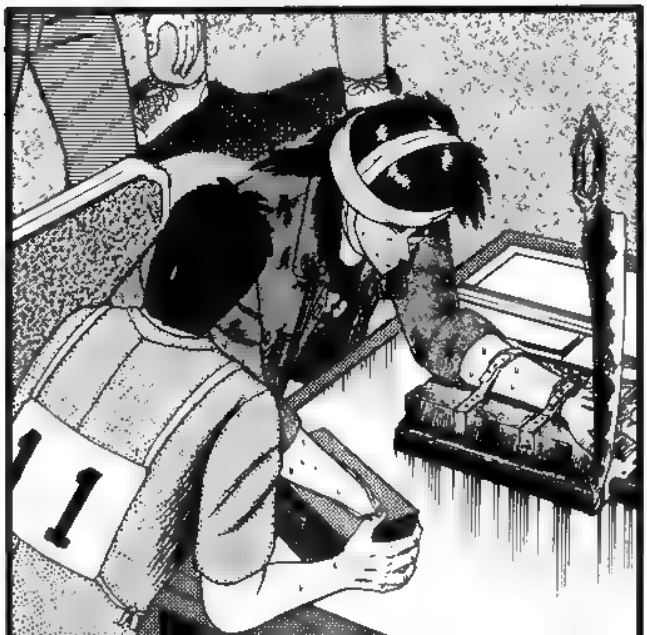

Could it ...?
Could it be stuck down deeper...?

But ...!

Ngh ...!
38
SCREECH
R

It's gone ...!
Gone ...!
Gone ...!
Gone ...!

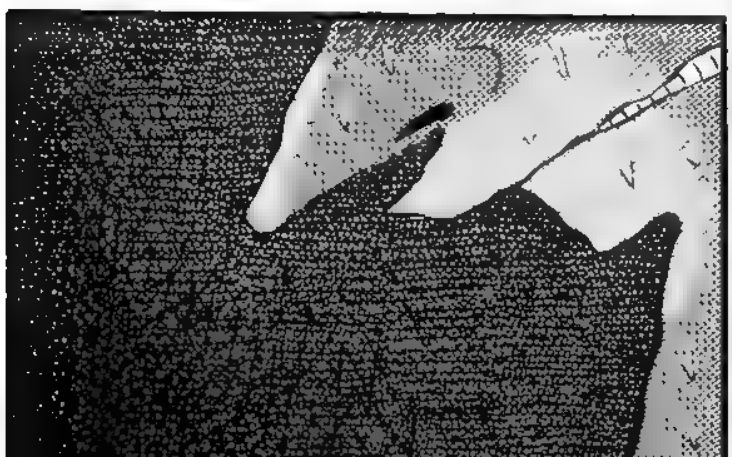
...did he shake the ticket loose!?

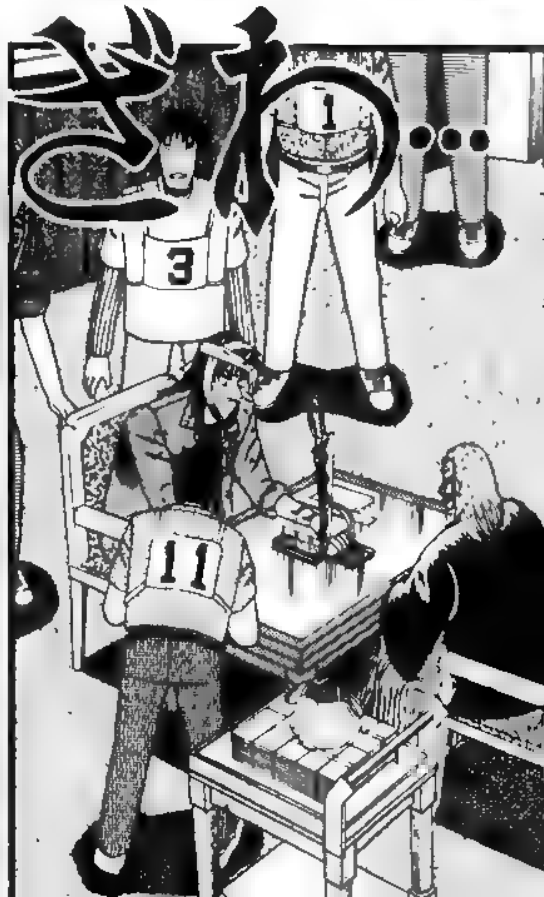


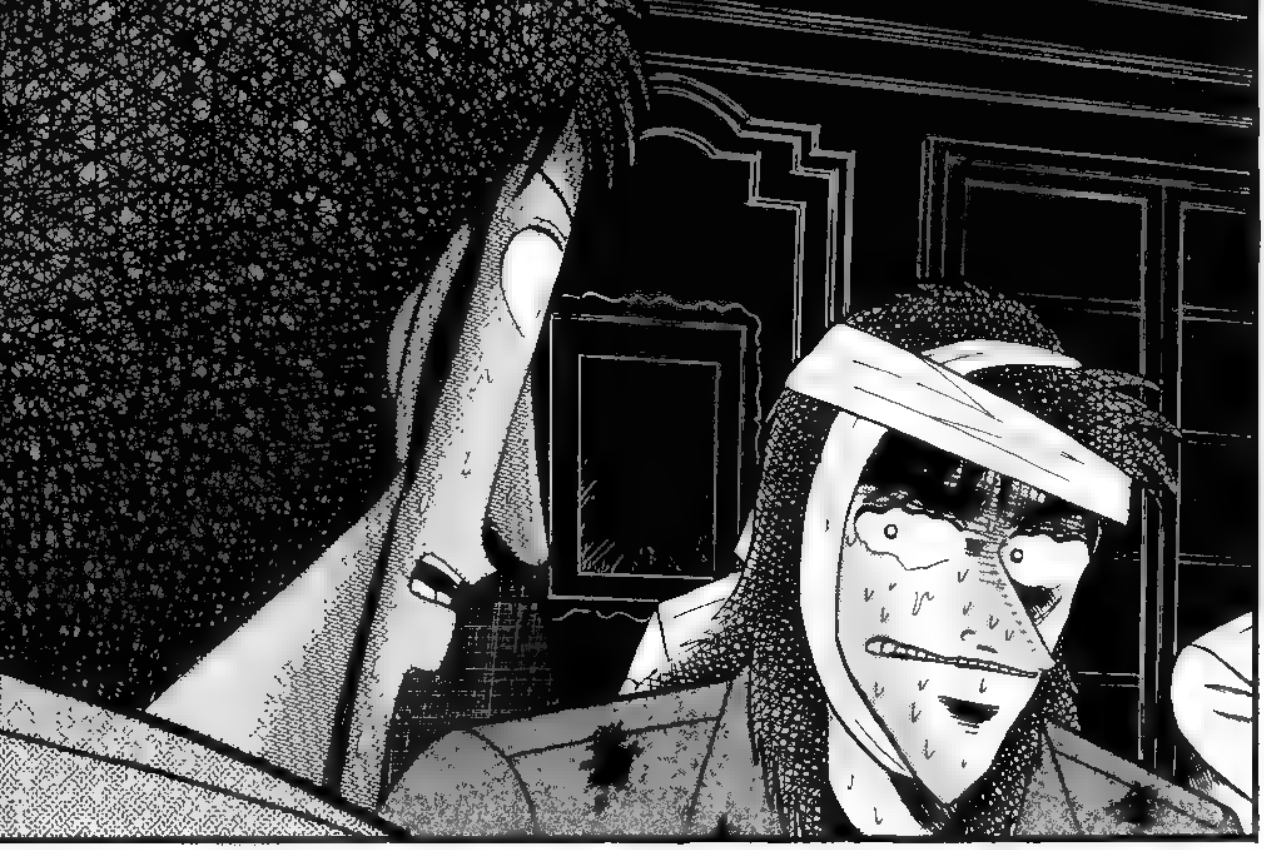
It's gone!!

2
5

Kaiji-
san...
ざわ…ざわ…




ざわ…
1
3
11

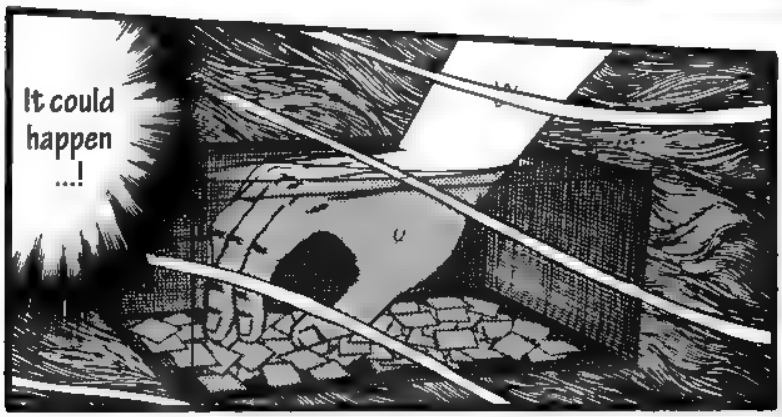


Ahh
...!

I just have to pick one ...!

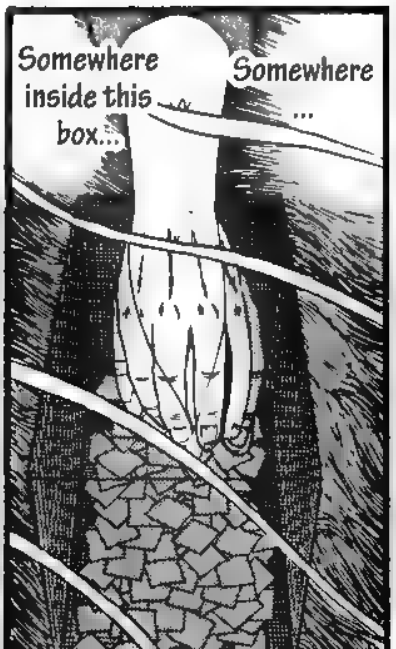
A moment ago the odds were 99% in my favor...
...and now it's turned into a matter of luck...
A 50/50 game of chance...
But ...

If I can draw that ticket out...
...right now...
If I can pick the right one ...!

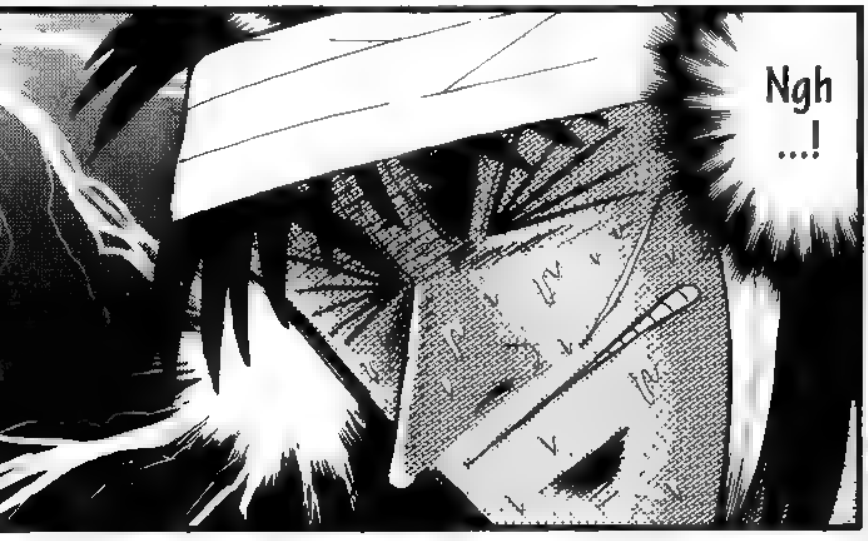

It could happen ...!

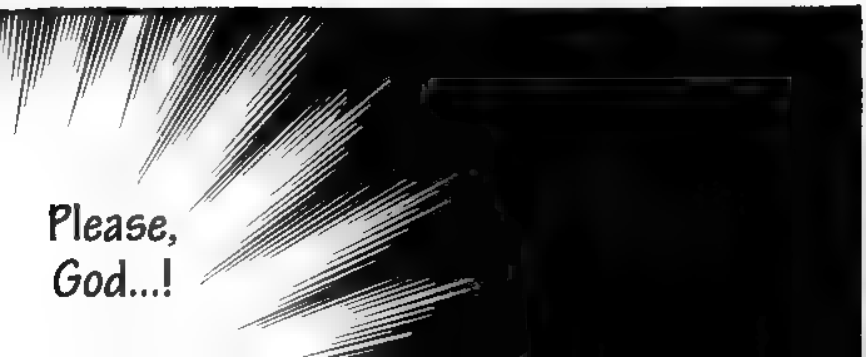
I'll be saved ...!
...then everything will be alright!

...the winning ticket is still there!
All I need is luck...


Somewhere inside this box...
Somewhere ...

I can do it...!
...is grab the right one!
All I need to do...


Ngh ...!

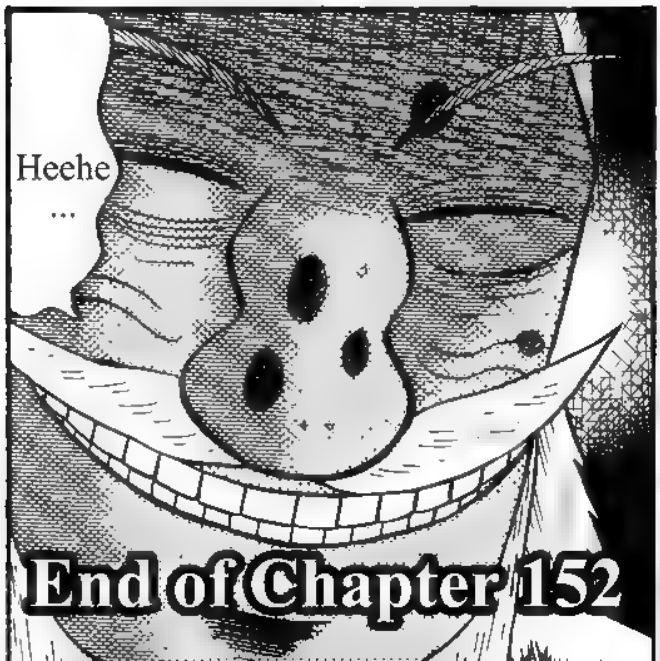

Please, God...!

Help me out...!

Ngh ...!
FIRST
God ...

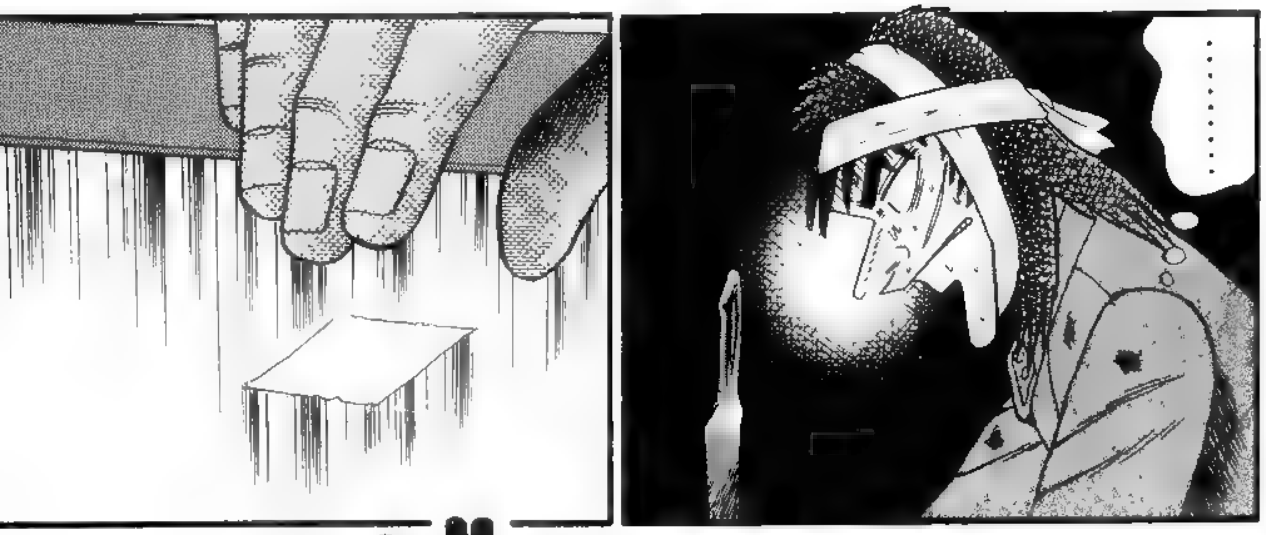
...did not answer!

Muha...
Ngh...!
11

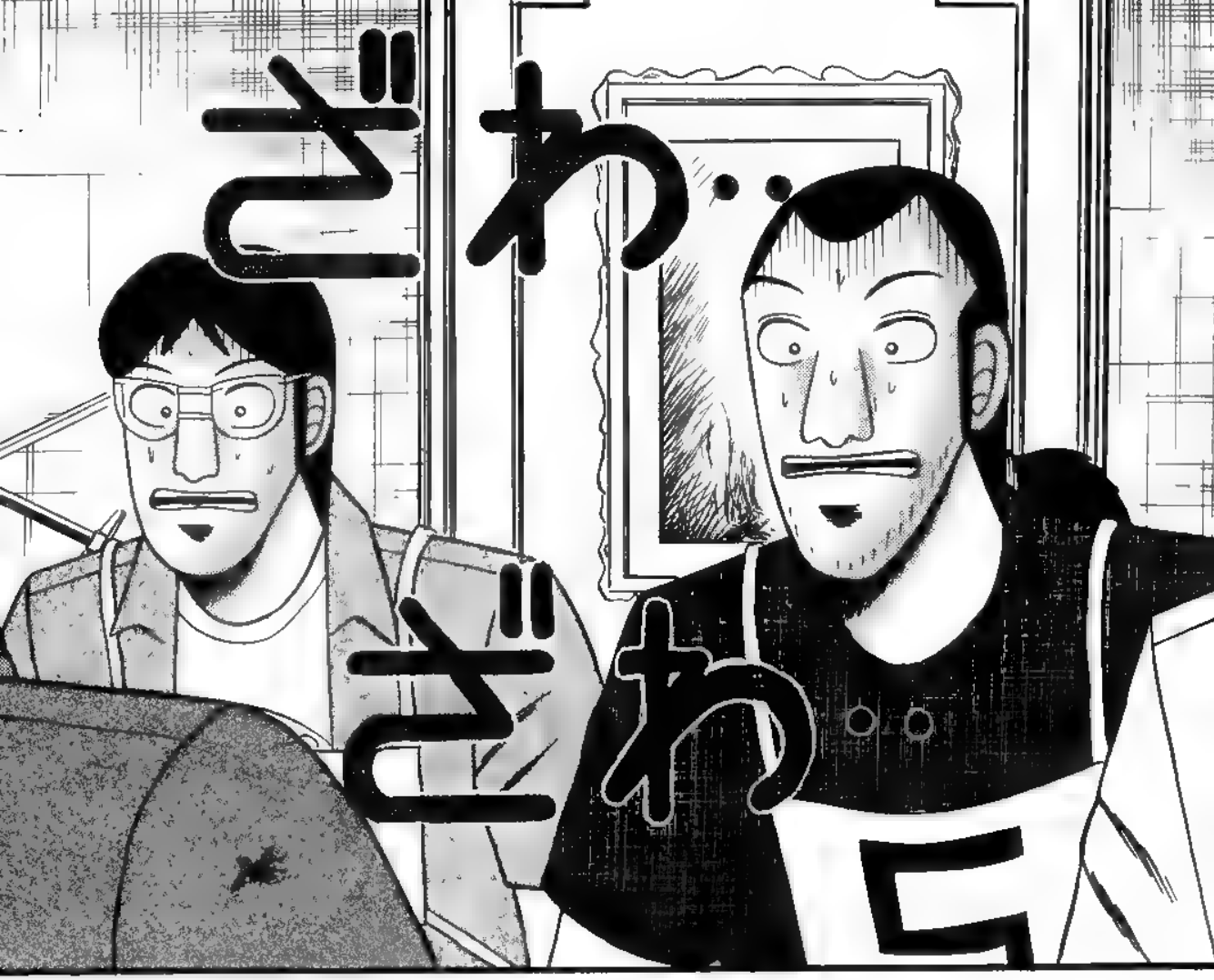

Heehe...
End of Chapter 152

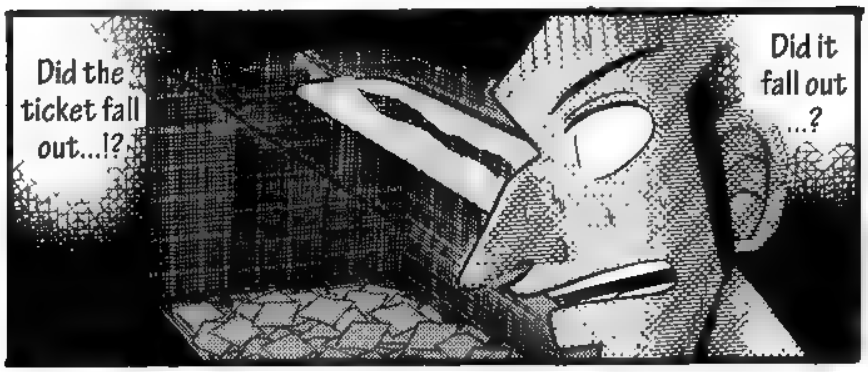
Muahahaha...

Hehehe
...
11
.....


.....

ざわ…


ばさっ

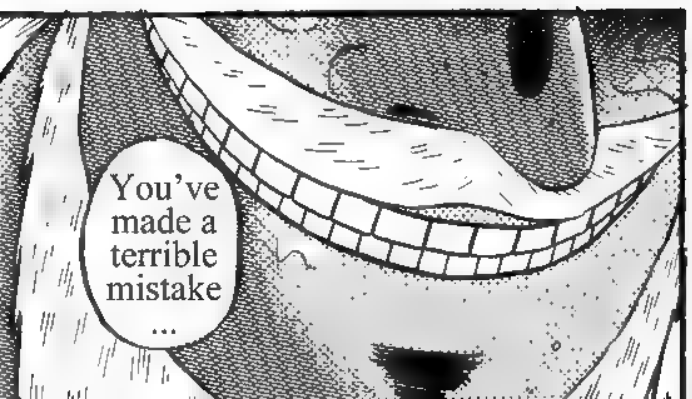

Did the ticket fall out...!?
Did it fall out ...?

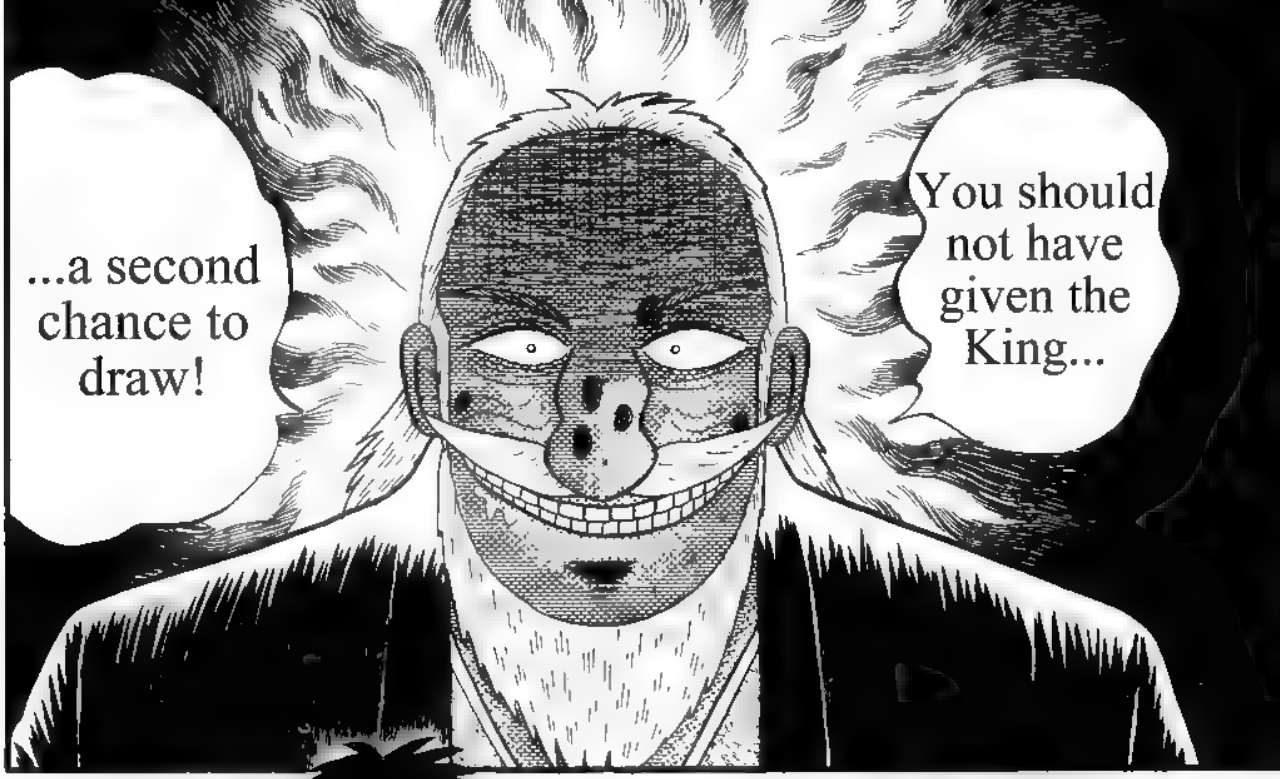
Kaiji-san...

...in the end...

...that despite all his work to make it a sure bet...
Then this means ...

Chapter 153: Providence

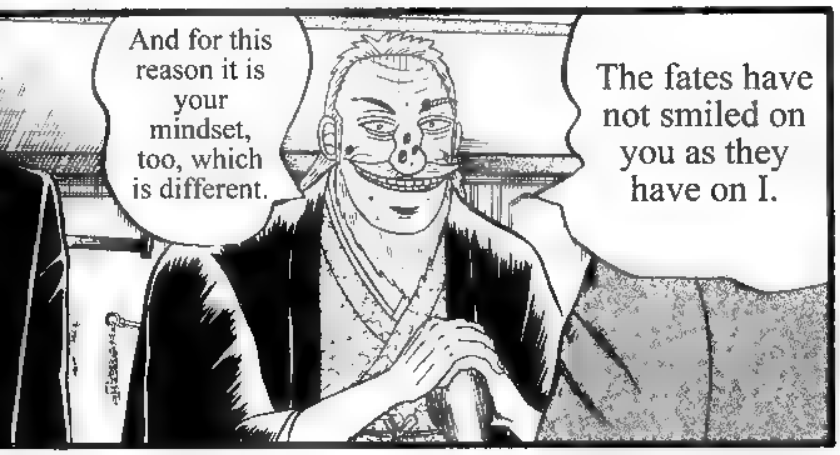


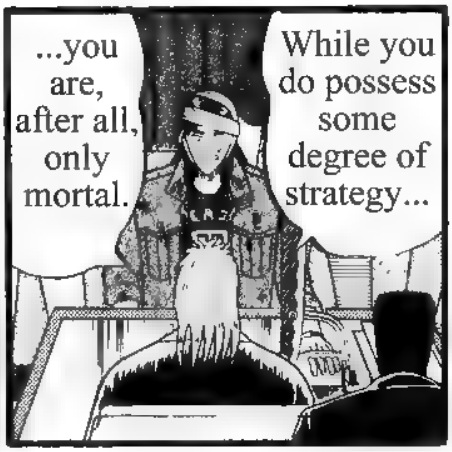

...a second chance to draw!
You should not have given the King...

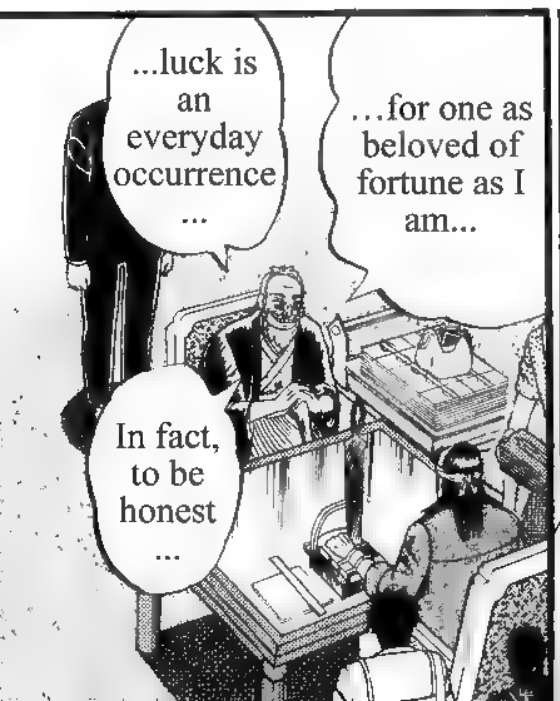
Hehehe ...
.....

...upon victory ...
I was born under a lucky star ...
...you have left me no choice but to draw the winning ticket.
Victory ...
By giving me this chance...

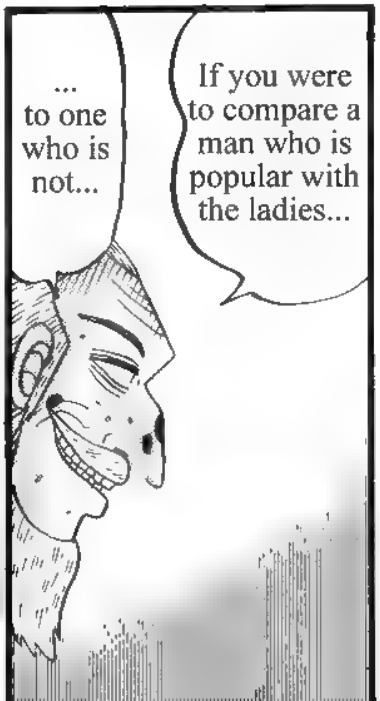
This is the fortune the stars have blessed me with...!
...upon countless and countless victories!

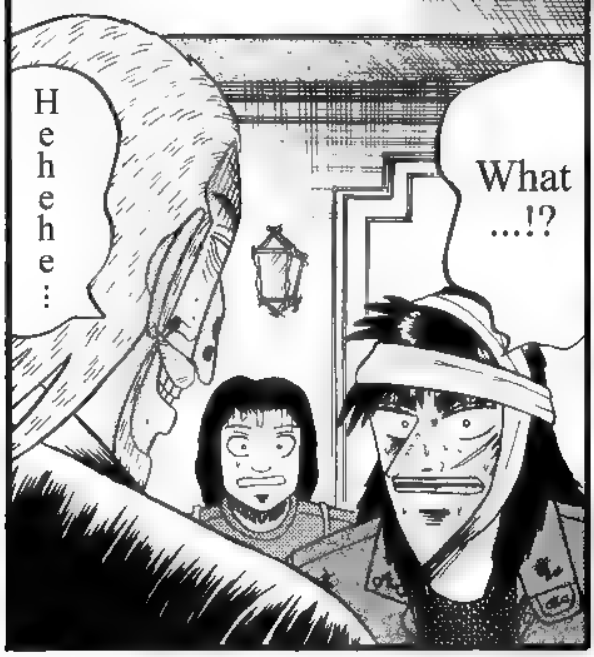

And for this reason it is your mindset, too, which is different.
The fates have not smiled on you as they have on I.

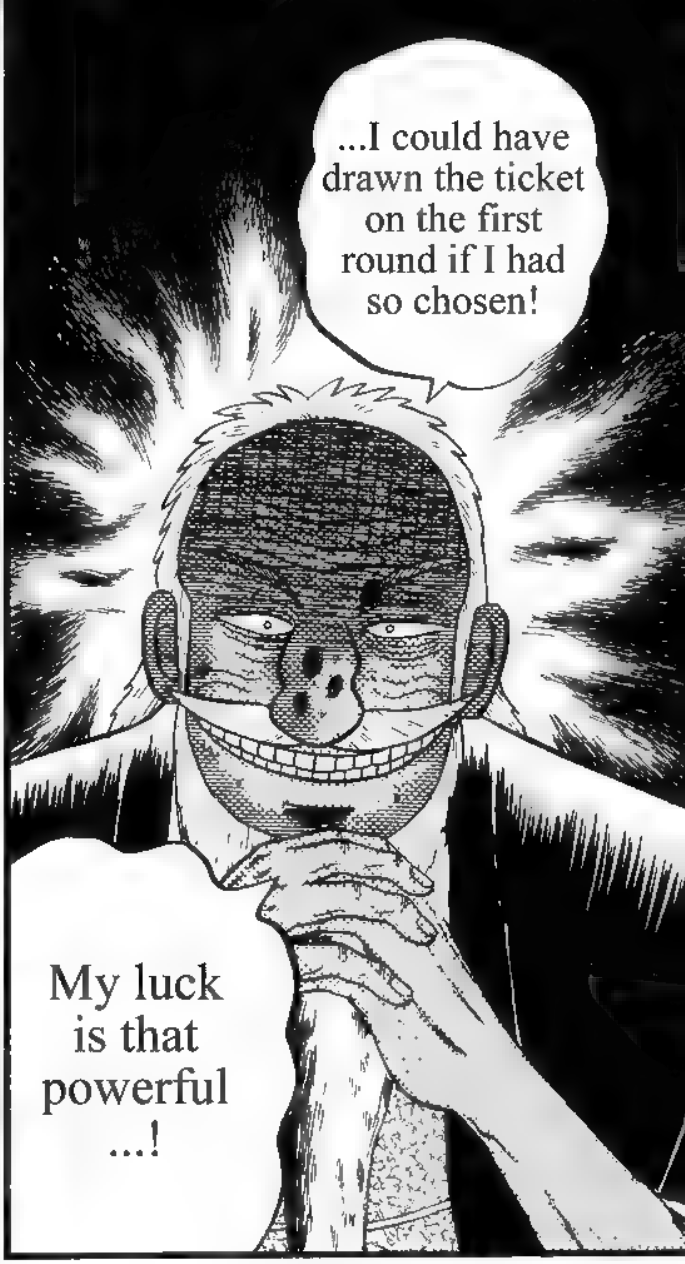

...you are, after all, only mortal.
While you do possess some degree of strategy...


...luck is an everyday occurrence ...
...for one as beloved of fortune as I am...
In fact, to be honest ...

In same manner ...
...you would find the way they think and feel about the fairer sex to be different, wouldn't you agree?


... to one who is not...
If you were to compare a man who is popular with the ladies...


Hehehe…
What …!?

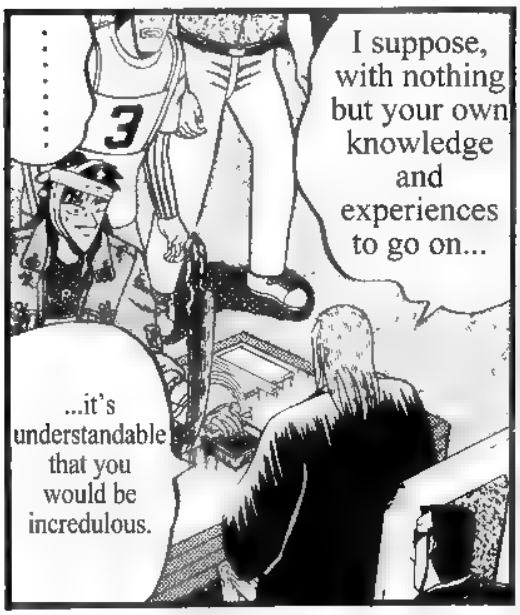

…I could have drawn the ticket on the first round if I had so chosen!
My luck is that powerful …!

…that would have taken all the fun out of our game.
However …
Instead …

Unfortunately …
… you a chance as well, Kaiji-kun!

… and give …
…I endeavored to curve that luck…

...has been your undoing!
This one misfortune ...
This one mistake ...
You failed to capitalize on the one precious chance you had been given ...!
Heehehe ...
Ngh ...!
...for some reason or other ...
...in situations such as these...
...but your chances at success are gone.
It's unfortunate, Kaiji-kun ...
You see...
... especially care to draw the ticket...
While I don't ...
...for in truth I would prefer to prolong our fun...
...I simply can't help drawing the right ticket!

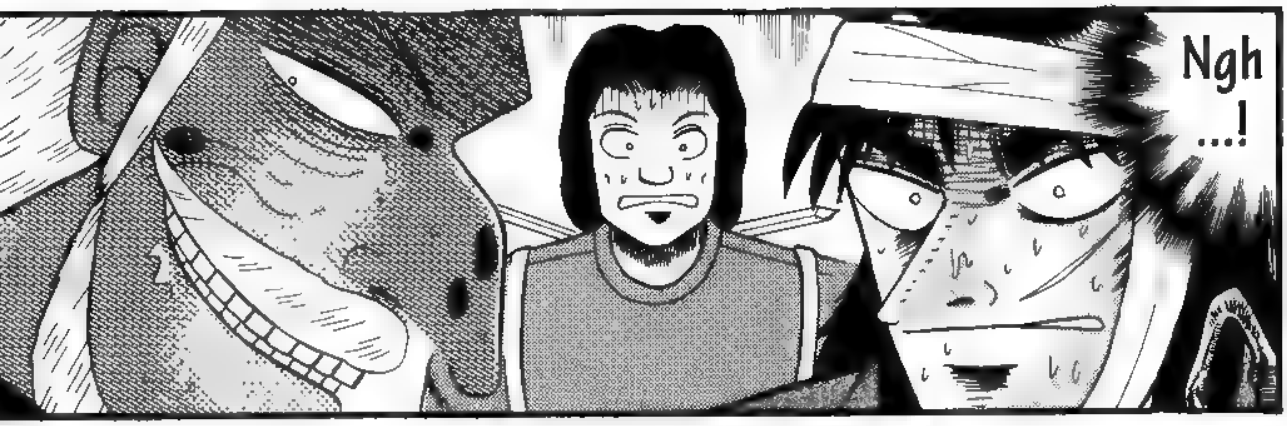

.....
I suppose, with nothing but your own knowledge and experiences to go on...
...it's understandable that you would be incredulous.

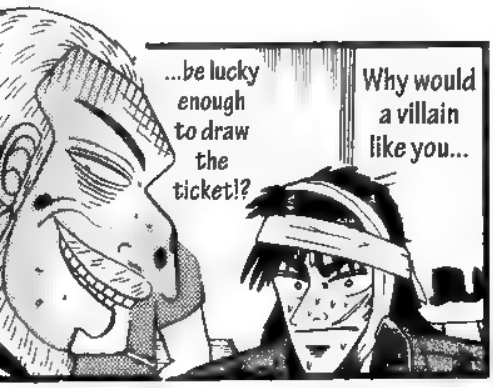
I draw it I will!

Then allow me to put my money...
...where my mouth is!
.....
Are we satisfied ...?
FWAP
FWAP
Hehehe ...
Yeah ...
Now then ...

The second draw ...!
seattle

The director's second draw ...!


Ngh ...!


...be lucky enough to draw the ticket!?
Why would a villain like you...

It ...
It isn't true ...!

You're a madman ...!
That's nonsense ...!

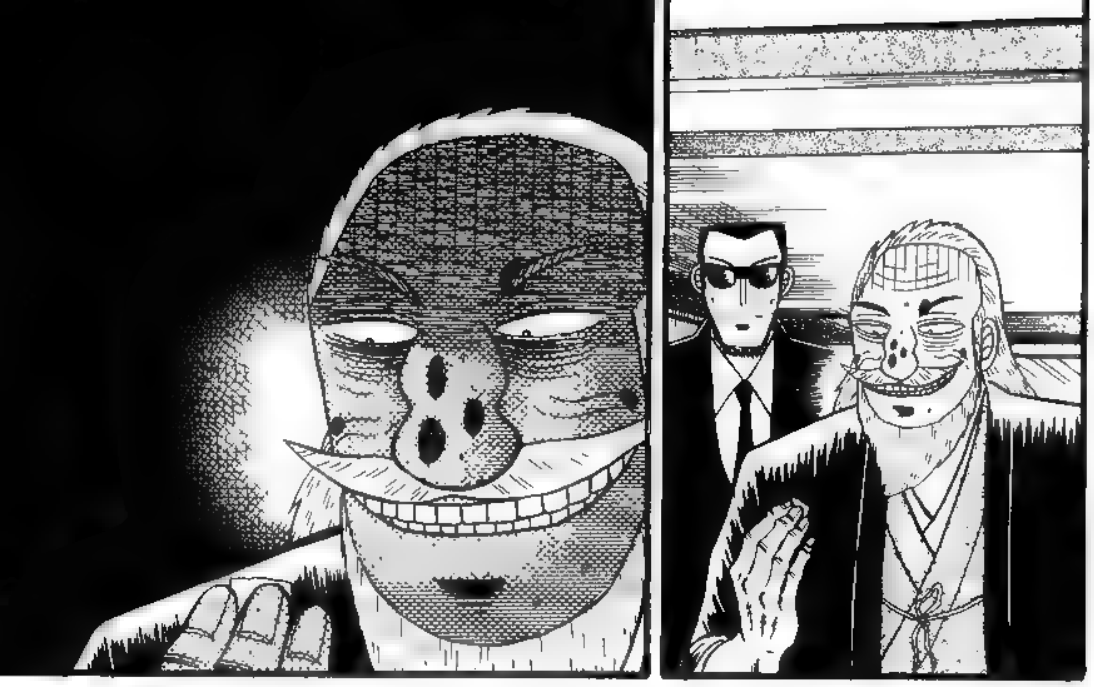
You gotta be kidding ...!

It just wouldn't be allowed...!

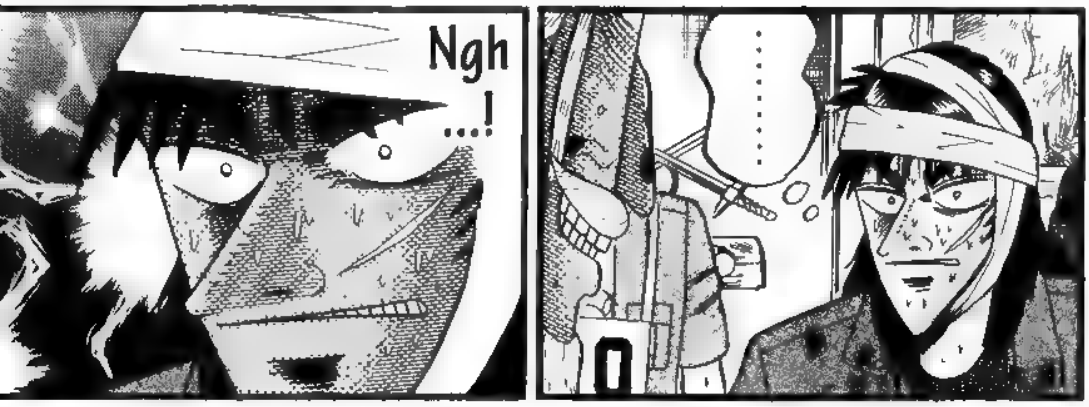
Me ...!
I'm the one that should be saved...!

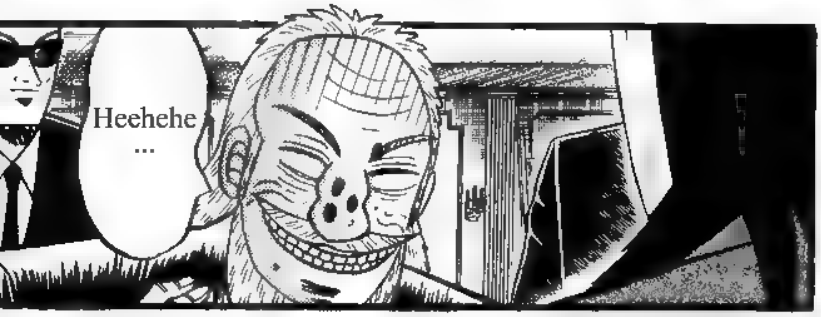
Ngh
...!
FWIP
scattle
Don't
do
it
...!

Don't pull that ticket ...!
Don't you dare ...!
A losing ticket ...!



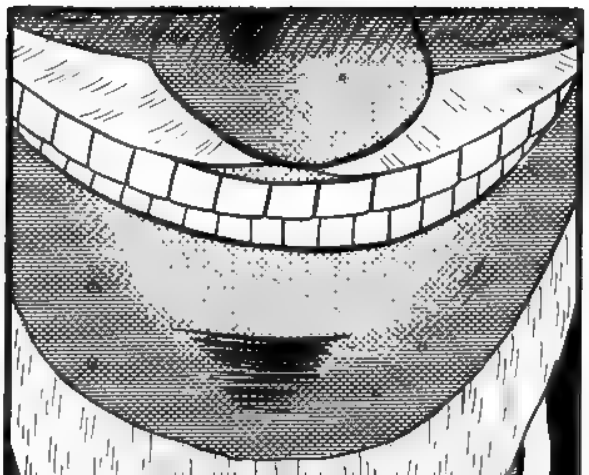
Pull a losing ticket ...!





You just have to ...!

Kaiji-kun ...



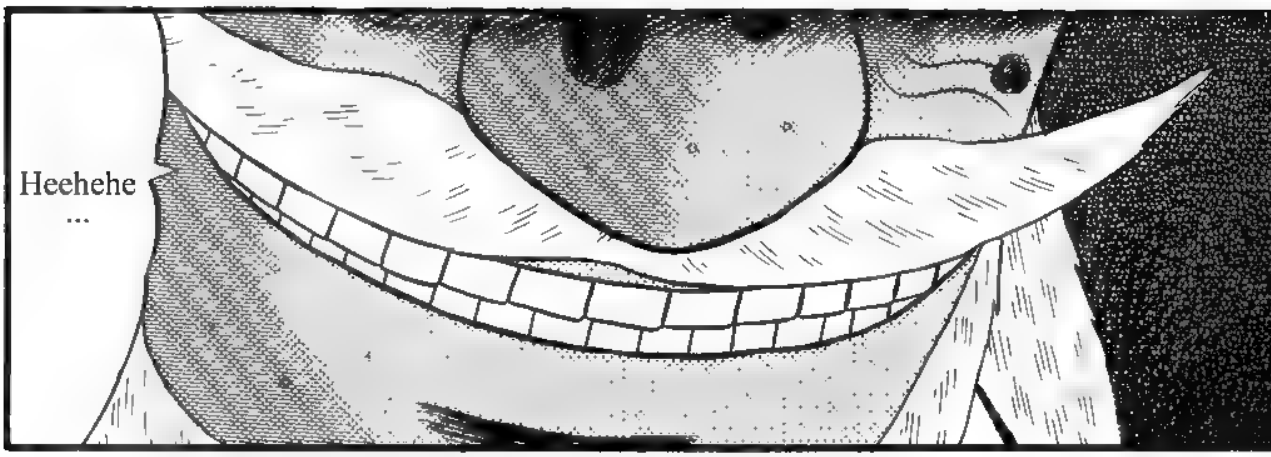
End of Chapter 153

Chapter 154: Trepidation

ざわ…
ざわ…
Which is it …!?
Heehehe …
ざわ

Hoheehee ...
...but that could mean that either one of us is the loser...
You said it was unfortunate ...

Hmm ...?
Just spit it out ...!


Heehehe ...

Clearly it does not mean that ...!

Kaiji-kun ...

I was hoping to prolong our fun ...
...but feared I would be unable.
Huh ...?
I told you earlier ...
As I told you before, the Goddess of Luck has chosen…
…to favor me with her love, perhaps leaving me no choice...
...but to draw the winning ticket!
You must learn ...
Come ...
... to take my words at face value!

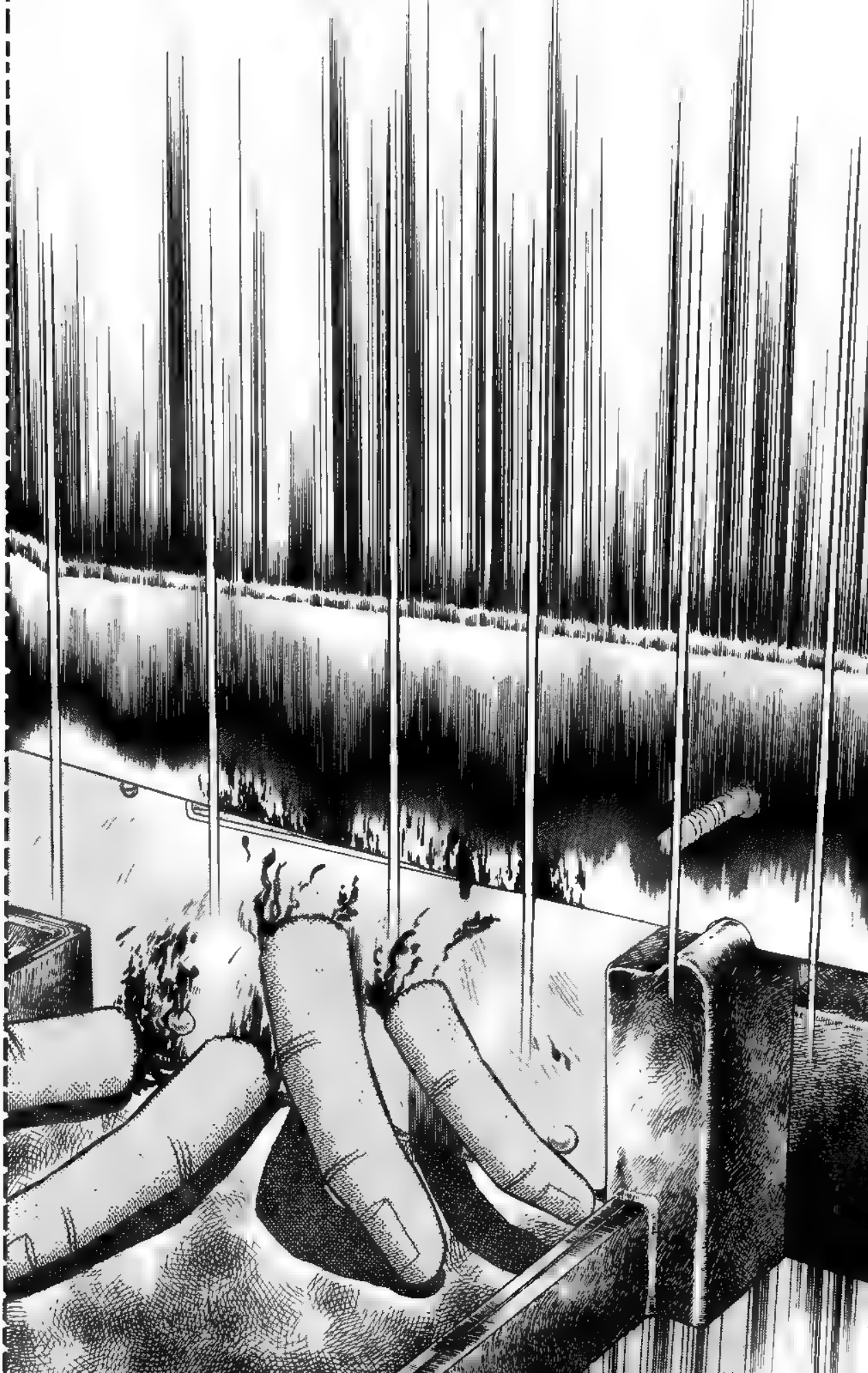
See for yourself...!

Ahh
...!

The winning ticket ...!

The ticket ...!
... ticket!
The winning ...

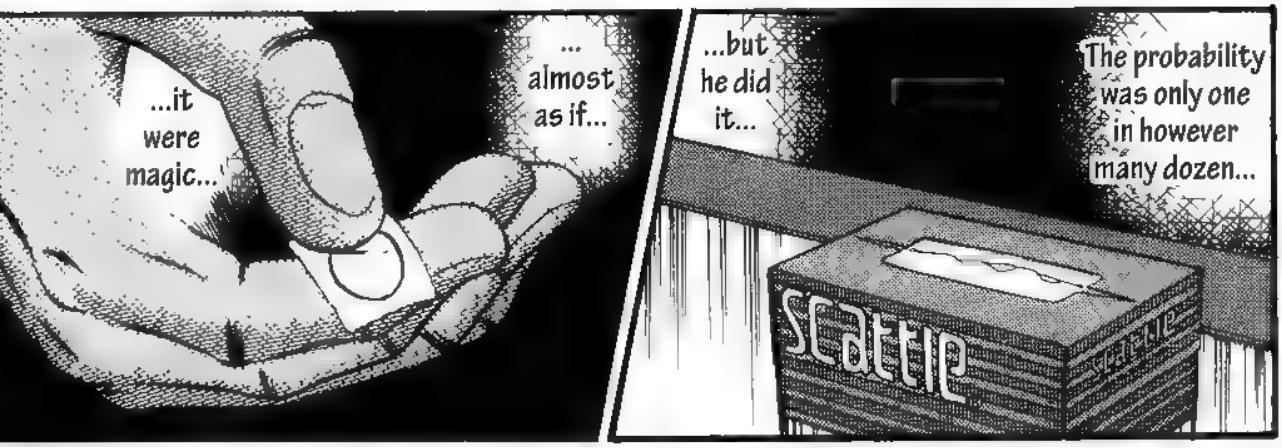
The winning ticket ...!



Ahh ...!
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
How ...!?
I- Impossible ...!

How
...
...
could
this
possibly
...
...
be
happening!?
Ahh
...!
11

He... He really picked the winning ticket ...!


...it were magic...
...almost as if...
...but he did it...
The probability was only one in however many dozen...
scattic

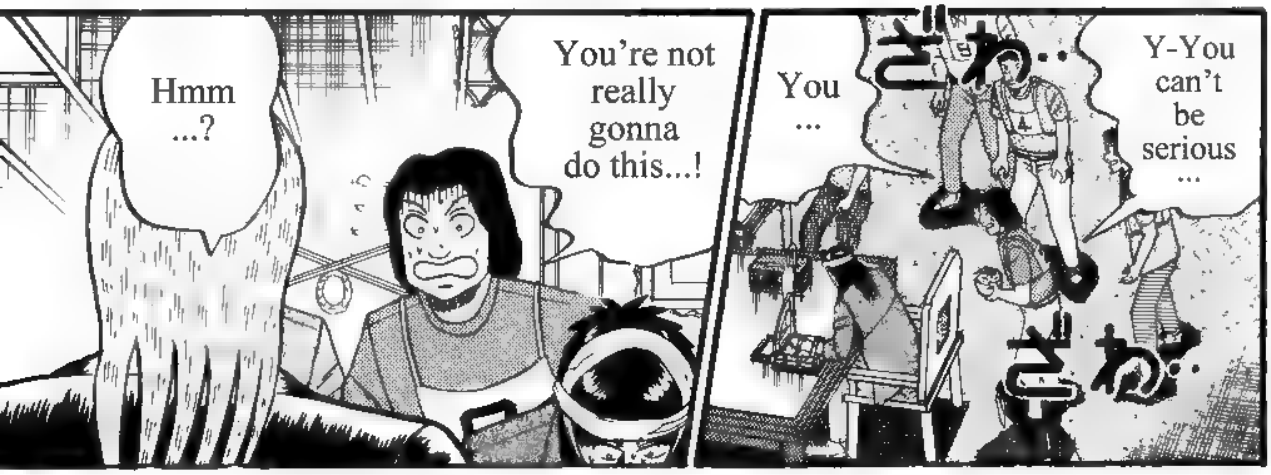
...who can overpower the rest of us with their luck!?
Could there really be people on this earth...
Is it possible ...?
Hehehe ...
Picked it as if it were nothing
2
11

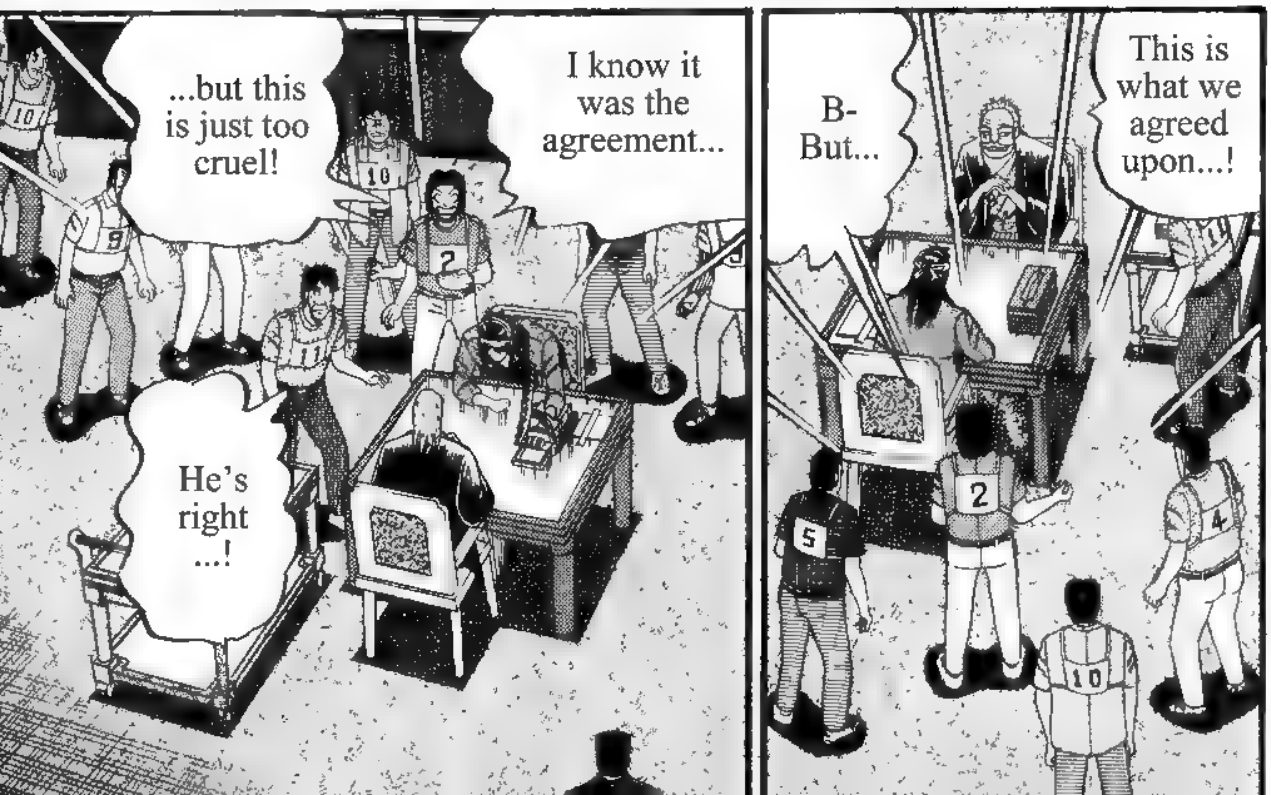
He's a monster ...!

...gauze and bandages.
Bring us...
Oi ...!

STEP
What ...?
11
Sir ...!
We must be prepared to stop the bleeding, after all ...
1

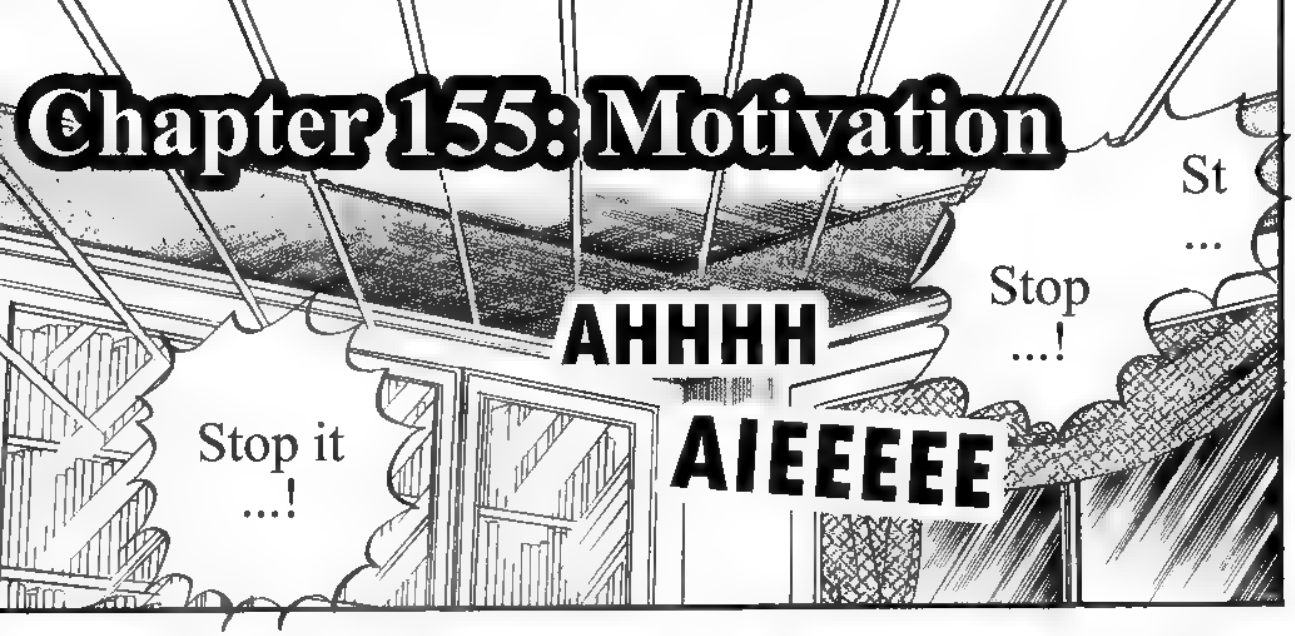
ざわ・・・

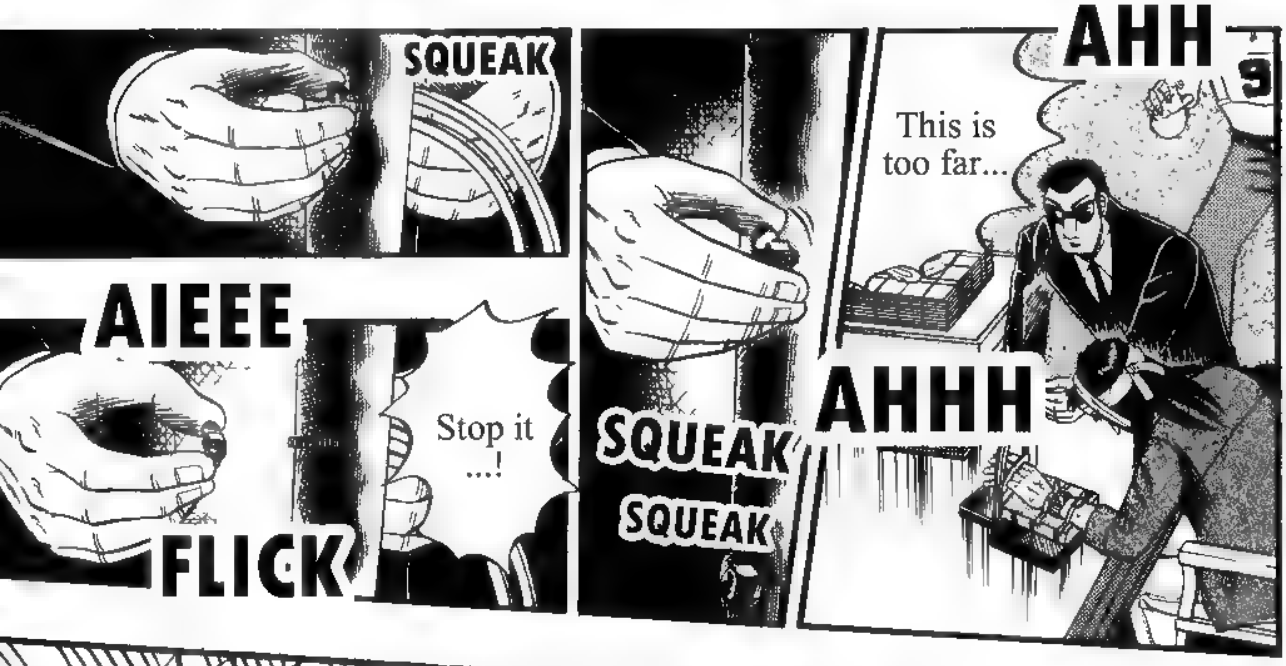

Hmm ...?
You're not really gonna do this...!
You ...
ざわ・・
Y-You can't be serious ...
ざわ・


...but this is just too cruel!
I know it was the agreement...
He's right ...!
B- But...
This is what we agreed upon...!

No, no, that wouldn't do...
Hehehe ...
You don't have to go through with this...!
...towards Kaiji-kun for me not to honor our agreement.
It would be disrespectful ...
The deal stands ...!
End of Chapter 154

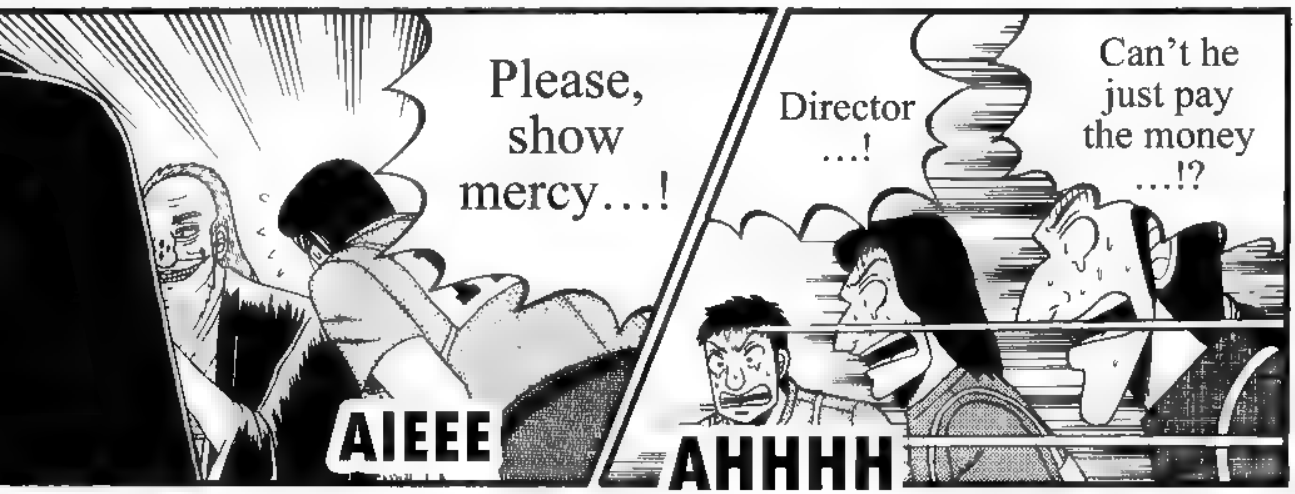
Chapter 155: Motivation

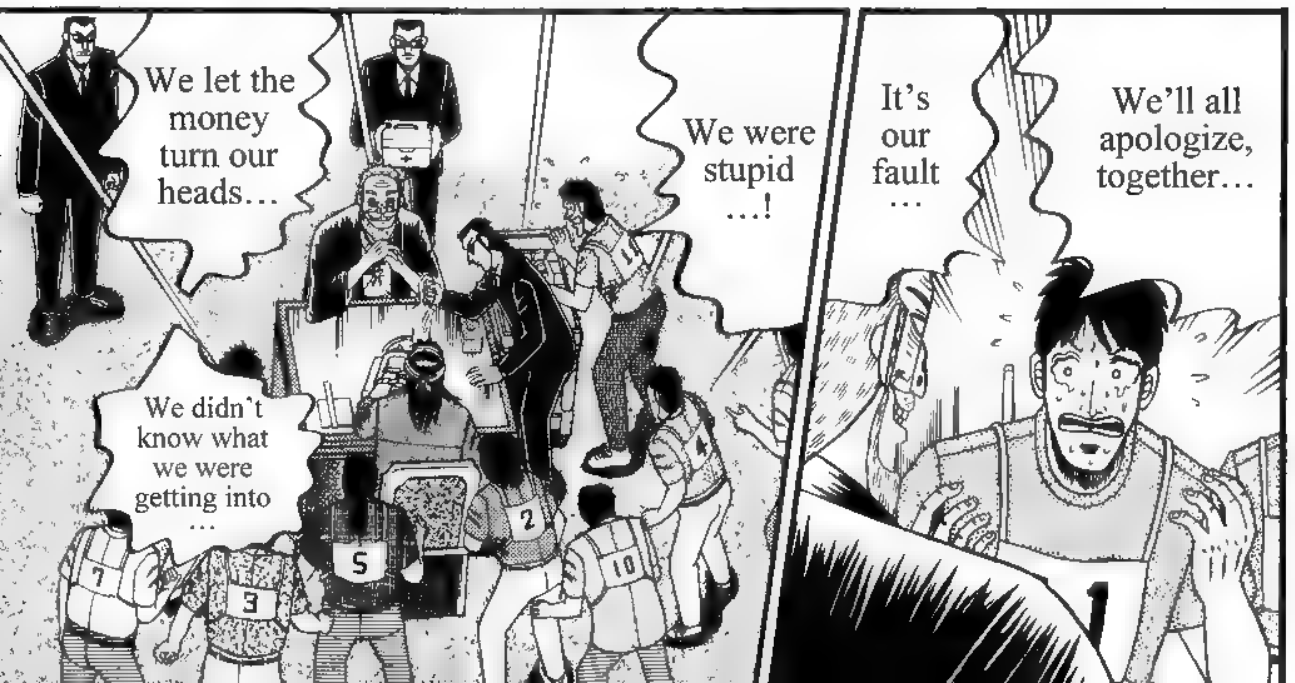




Why do this ...!?
SHAKE

Why do something like this ...!?
Yeah ...!
AHHHH
What's wrong with you ...!?
AHHHH
AHHHH


Please, show mercy…!
AIEEE
Director ...!
Can't he just pay the money ...!?
AHHHH


We let the money turn our heads…
We were stupid ...!
We didn't know what we were getting into …
It's our fault …
We'll all apologize, together…

Right, Kaiji-san …!?
We'll never oppose you again …!
We promise …
… forgive us!
Please …
We were in over our heads …!
These fingers are gone …!
They're gone …
He'd never show me mercy in a million years …
The director is not a forgiving man…
It's no good …

TWITCH

But soon . . .
Right now I can move them . . .

I can move them . . .
TWITCH
TWITCH

Ahhh . . . !
Ahh . . . !

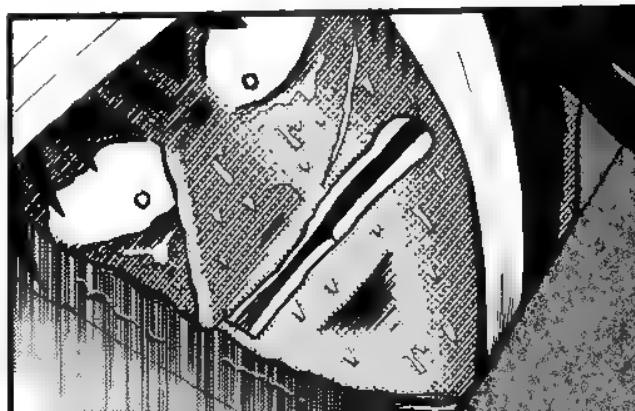
Nghh . . . !
JERK

Is this really happening ...!?
Is this ...

I don't want this ...! I want to be saved ...!!
If ...
5
3
1

No...!

Ahh ...!



...as many time as it takes!
I'll apologize ...
... then I'll apologize ...
If apologizing will help...

After all ...
I can just go into more debt instead of giving up my fingers.
That's it ...!
I'll get down and kiss the ground if that's what it takes ...!
...to cut them off!?
... what's in it for them...

Of course ...!

If I just apologize ...

If you stop and think about it...

Shall I ...?
...then just this once...
Indeed ...
...and if I do it from the bottom of my heart...
I'll apologize as many times at it takes...
If I show how sorry I am...
Aiee ...!
JERK
N-No ...!
Ah ...!

11
Yes
...?

I...
You have something to say?
I...
ER

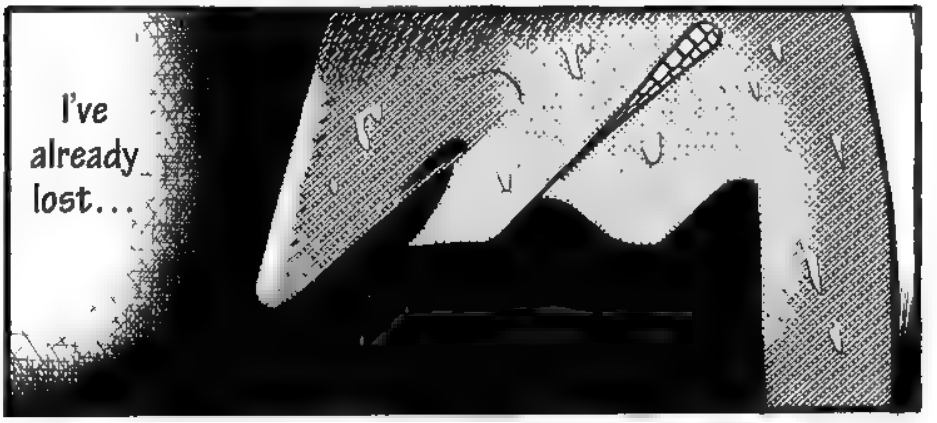
SOB
SOB
SOB

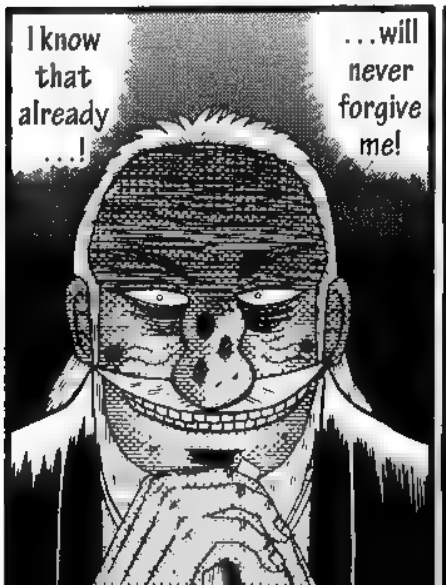
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB

I won't apologize ...!

I don't care how bad I want to ...

Kaiji-san...
11
2


I've already lost...


I know that already ...!
...will never forgive me!

The director ...
What good will it do to lower myself even further...?

I refuse...!!

...surrender my pride as well!
I won't ...
It's time to man up...!
...to beg for mercy!
It's too late now ...
... without losing my pride as well!
Losing my fingers and money is enough...
Kaiji-san...
It's time to stand tall...!

Now more than ever, it's time to stand tall...!

End of Chapter 155

Chapter 156: Eventide

Kaiji-san…
ざわ…
Kaiji-san…
ざわ…
ざわ…
And losers …
I lost …
…what you're saying!
Think about …
…have to pay the consequence!
It's fine …!
What …!?
Do it …!

If we try to bend the rules now …
…then what's the point of this all?
This is the way it has to be …!
Kaiji-san …!
A loser's pride rests in his…
… accepting his defeat.
It's time for me …
…to face the consequences!

Heehehe
…
…hehehe…
Indeed, indeed
…
Now that
…
…
is the spirit, boy!
I knew
…
…that I saw something in you.

More often than not…
…those in your position display the exact opposite response.
…uncommonly good sense.
You show …

…are beyond help, rotten to the core.
For these trash …
Those who would accuse me of being some sort of monster or devil for this…
…is carrying out our arrangement as agreed.
All I am doing …

…is out of their league!
… 100 million yen …

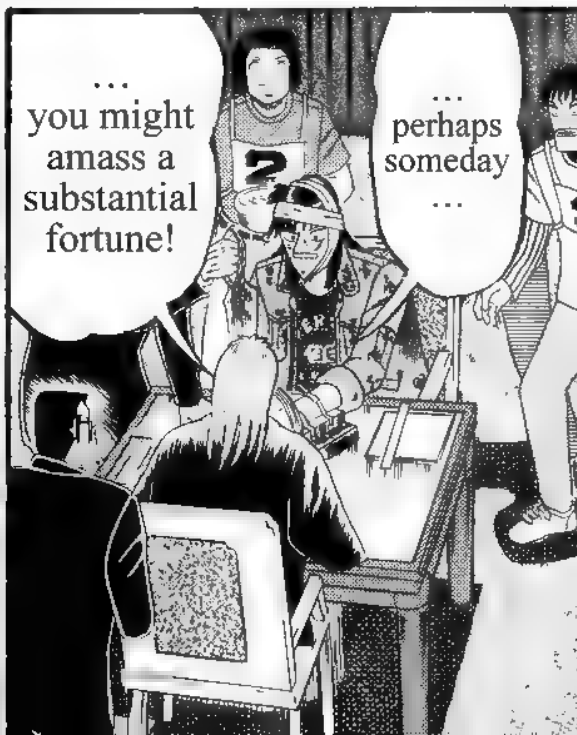
Hehehe…
……
…this piece of paper…
…would be crumpled up…
…and thrown into the trash.
Usually…
……
Now that the game is over this is no more than a scrap of paper…
Heehehe…
?……
…I will make a present of it to you, Kaiji-kun!
But instead, in honor of the pride you show in not begging for mercy…
It would disappear, gone forever…

If…
……

…
however
…
…
this scrap holds the luck of the King!

…to your advantage, in the remainder …
…of your life …
…
you can turn that luck…

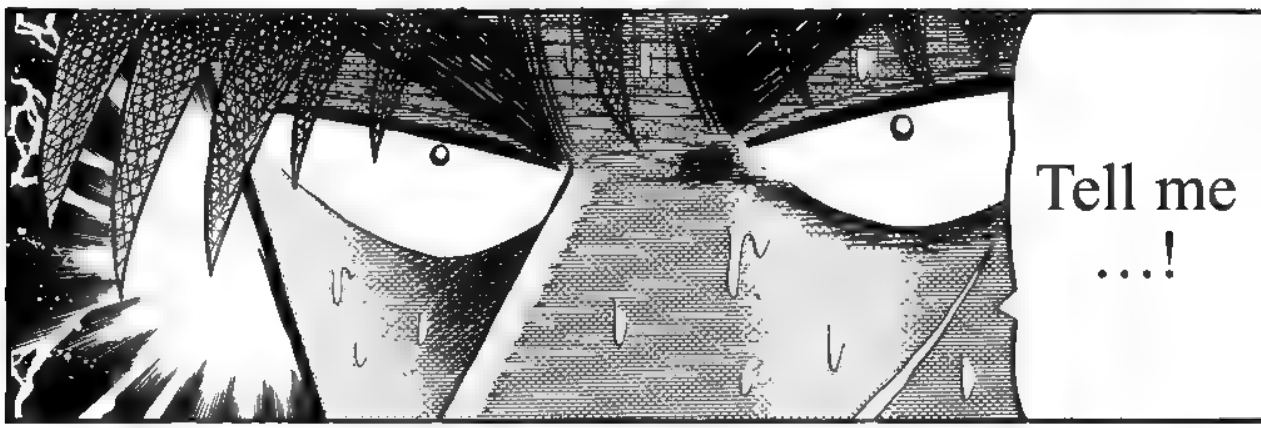
Heehehe…


…
you might amass a substantial fortune!
…
perhaps someday
…

Take it …!

.....
Heehehe...
.....
REACH
38
...now that I think about it...
.....
You know ...
... your name!
... haven't told me ...
... you still ...

Heehehehe
…


Tell me
…!

My name …

…I haven't told you, have I?
Indeed, now that you mention it…

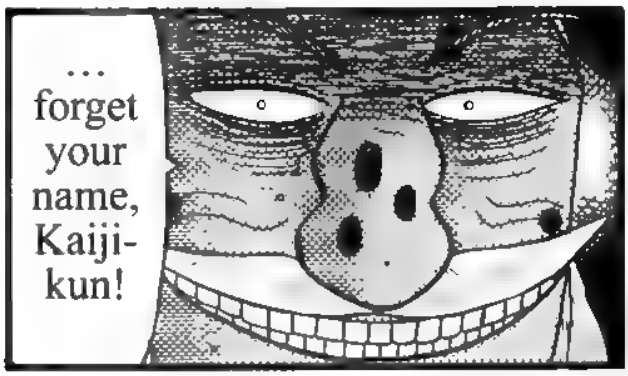
HEEHEHE
HEEHEHE

Kazutaka Hyodo…!
…is Hyodo.

Hyodo …
……

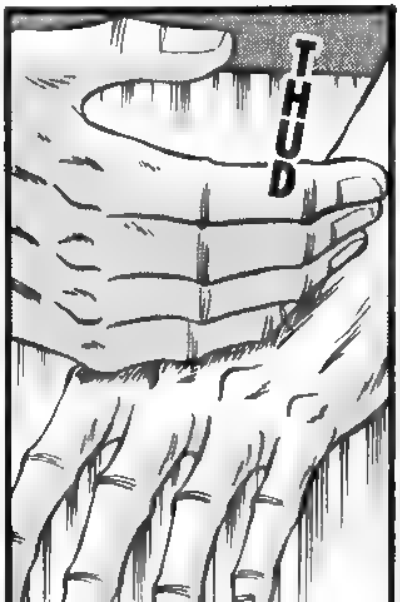
That is Hyodo …
… spelled with an 'H' …

I won't forget that name ...!


... forget your name, Kaiji-kun!

Nor will I...

Yessir ...!


THUD

Oi ...!

YANK
. . . . . .
No, that's not true . . .
I'm terrified . . . !
Ngh . . . !
I'm not afraid . . . !
But . . .
I can take it . . . !
I can withstand . . .
. . . the pain and the fear!

I won't look away...!

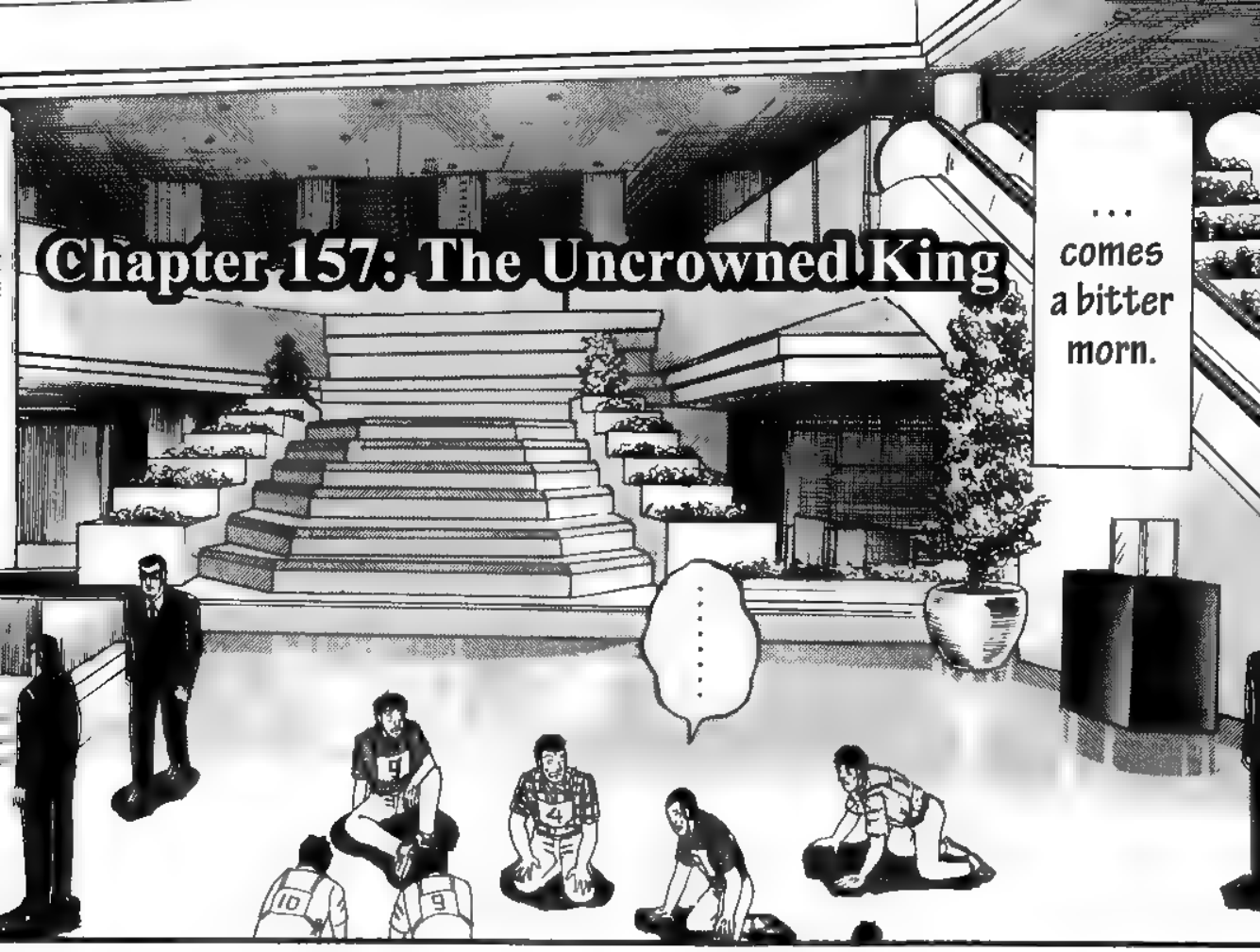
I won't look away...!
YANK
Aiee...!
Arggh...!
Aiee...!
THWACK
Aiieeee...!
And so...

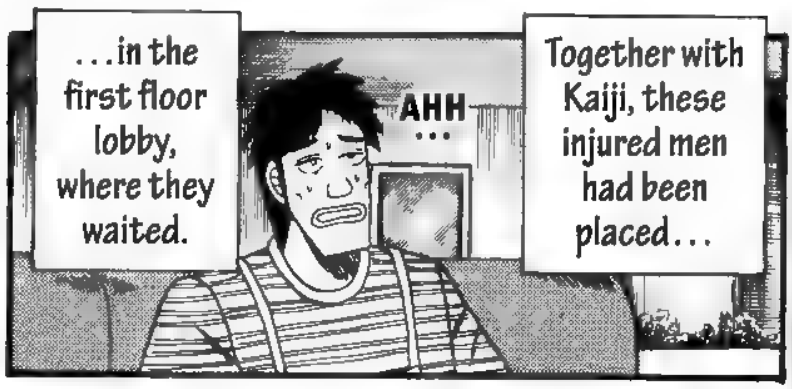
...Kaniwa's blood has been spilled.

The long night of horrors was finally at an end...!

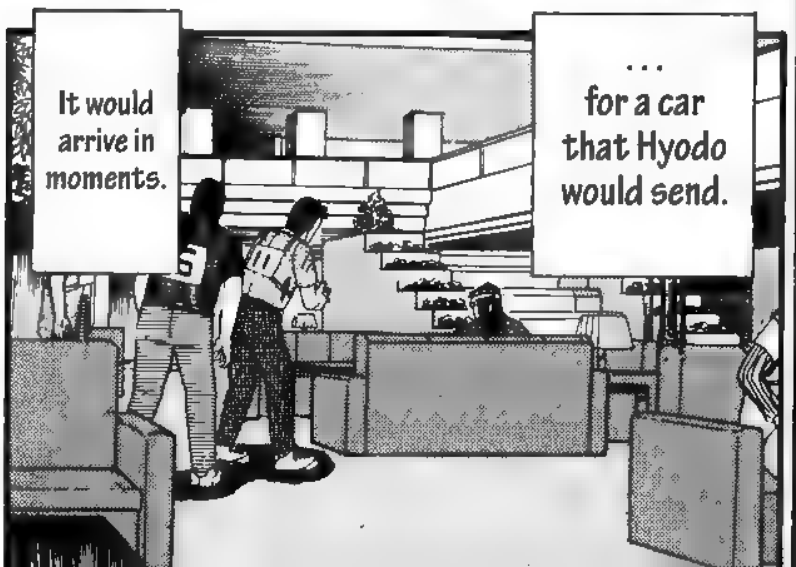
End of Chapter 156

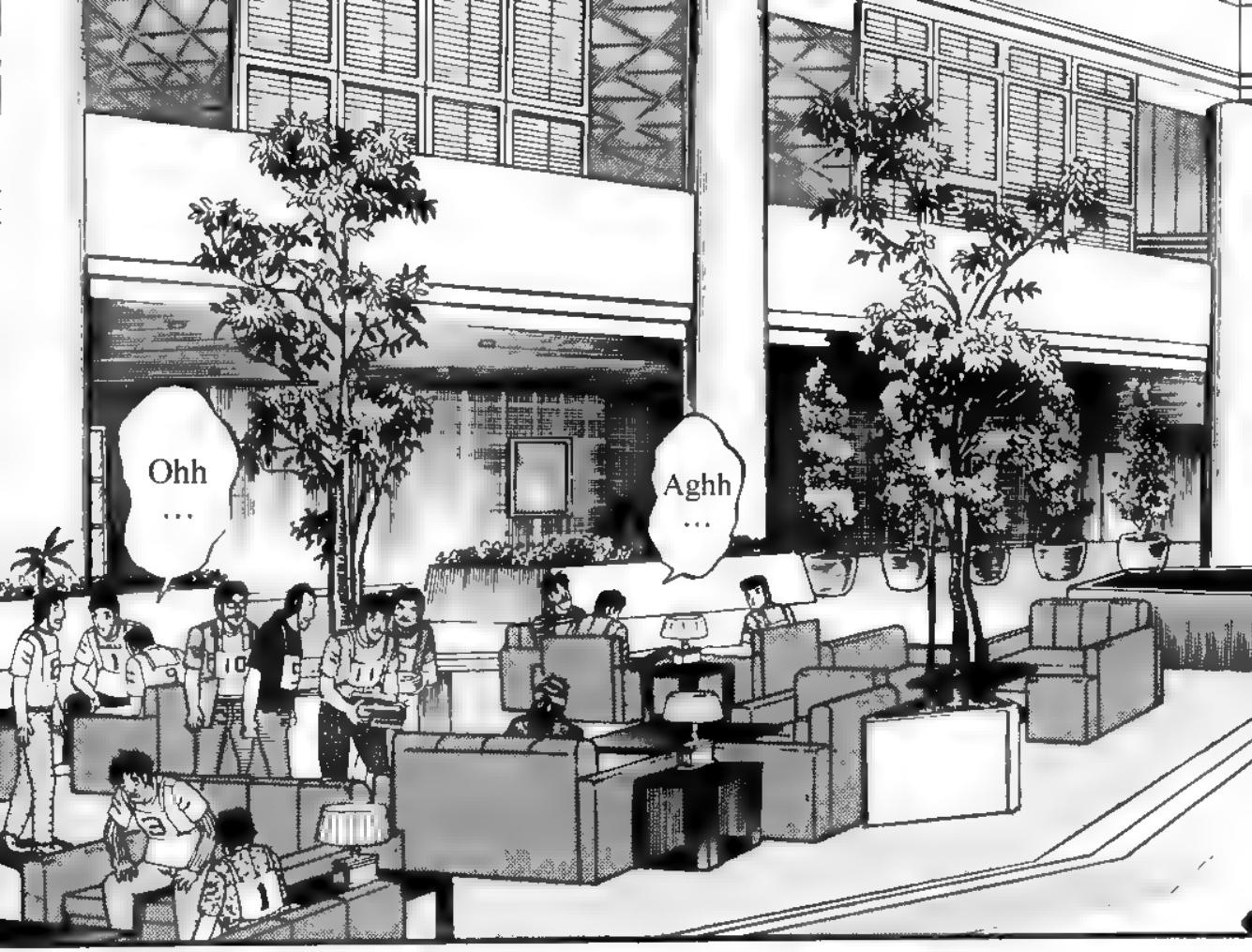
Like the broken remains...
...of the night's gambling fever...

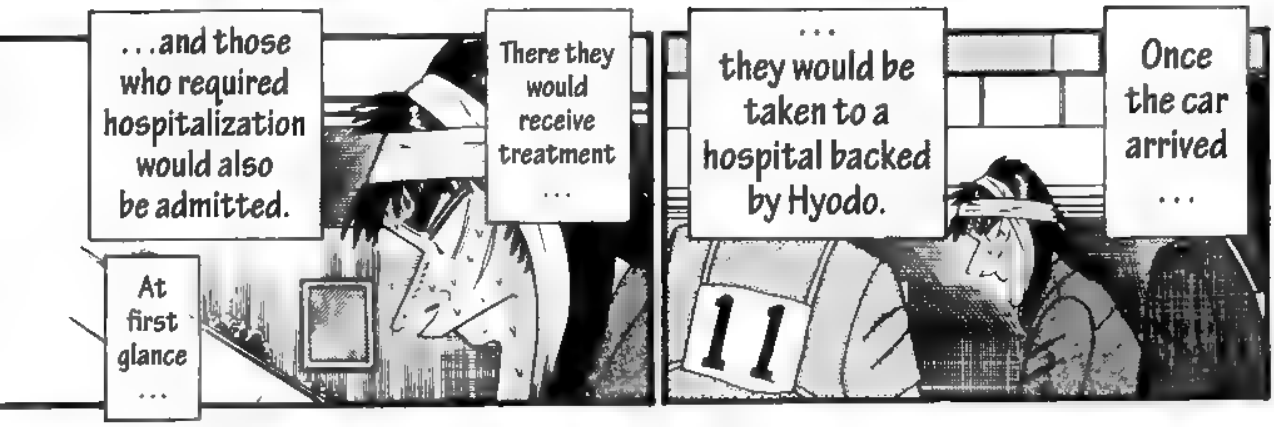

Chapter 157: The Uncrowned King
. . .
comes a bitter morn.
. . . . . .

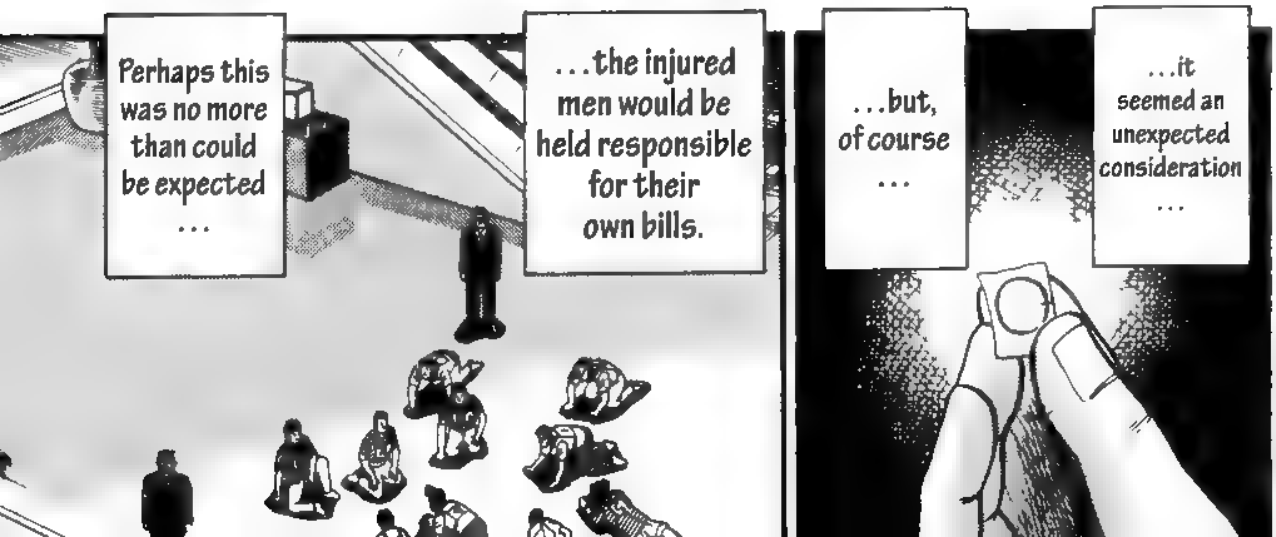

. . . in the first floor lobby, where they waited.
AHH . . .
Together with Kaiji, these injured men had been placed . . .

. . . of easy money now dashed.
It dawns upon the wounded men, their dreams . . .


It would arrive in moments.
. . . for a car that Hyodo would send.


Ohh
...
Aghh
...


...and those who required hospitalization would also be admitted.
There they would receive treatment ...
...
they would be taken to a hospital backed by Hyodo.
Once the car arrived ...
At first glance ...
11


Perhaps this was no more than could be expected ...
...the injured men would be held responsible for their own bills.
...but, of course ...
...it seemed an unexpected consideration ...

But for this they only had themselves to blame, reaping now...
...this huge debt to their already heavy injuries would place these young men...
...but forcing them to add ...
...in a pitiful situation.
Heehehe ....
...what they had sown!
...the luck of the King!
...but this scrap holds...
Now that the game is over this is no more than a scrap of paper...
...in the remainder of your life...
someday
If you can turn that luck to your advantage ...

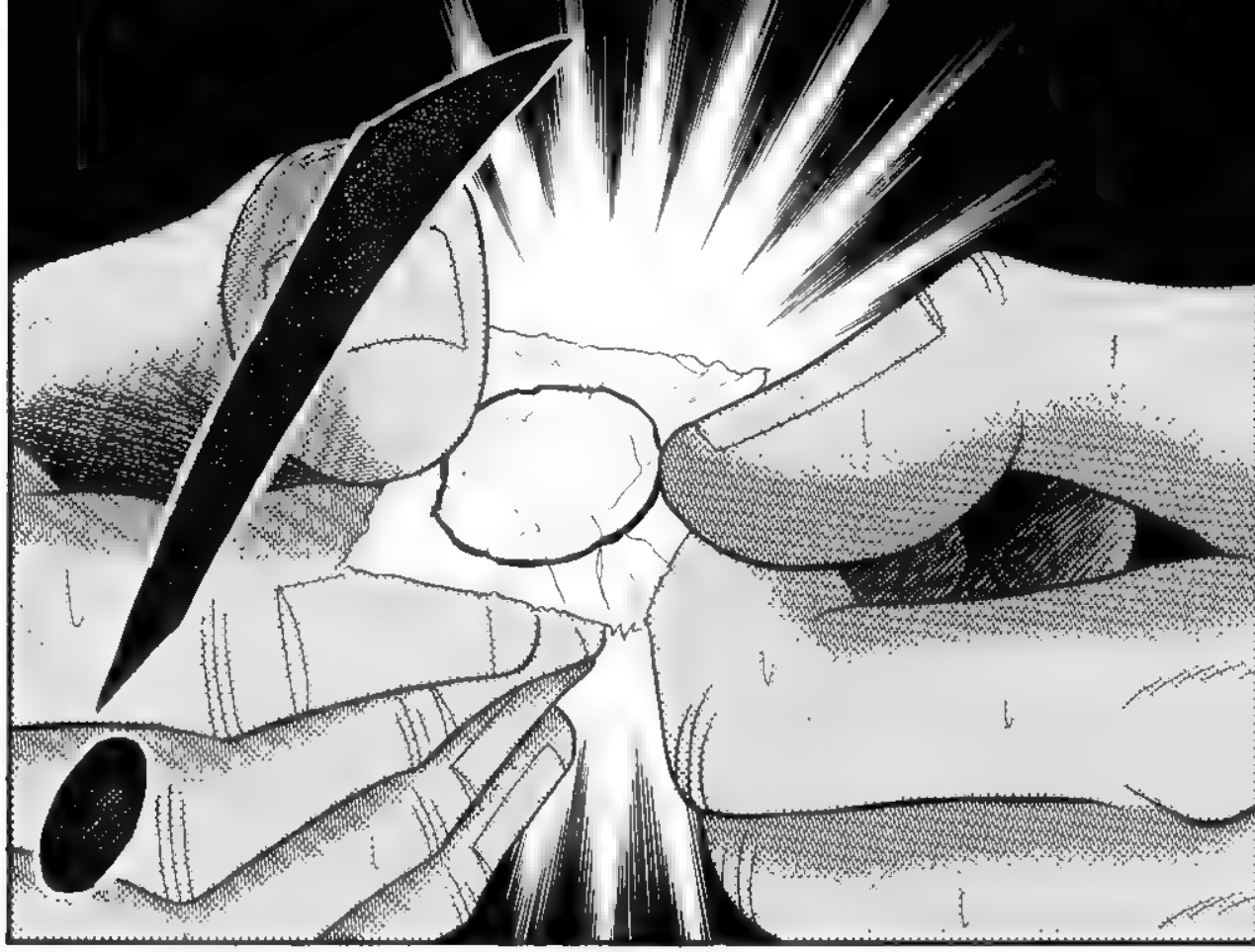
...you might amass a substantial fortune!
Get real ...!
Come on ...!
...I believe that!
... if he thinks ...
He's got some nerve ...
A substantial fortune ...?
Who does he think he's fooling ...!?

But still…
I don't believe it…
Eh…?
?……
Yeah…?
……
Kaiji-san…!
11
5
…magic in this!
…if there is some sort of…
…you gotta wonder…

We looked, but the ticket you planted…
… it's not there!
…just isn't there!
… just in case …
… but …
We were worried that there would be proof we were cheating, so we brought the box …
It's …
It's not there …!
The way the blacksuit was shaking the box before the match…
There's no way it could have fallen out of the box …
It has to be …!
But… but…
It's the only possibility …!
… it could have only fallen out inside.

Look …!
There's none left…
We checked …
… every single ticket.
…
See …!?
Ahh…!

Ahh ...!
In the corner ...!
There ...!
JUMP
Huh ...?
Ahhh ...!
Ah ...!
What ...?
What ...?



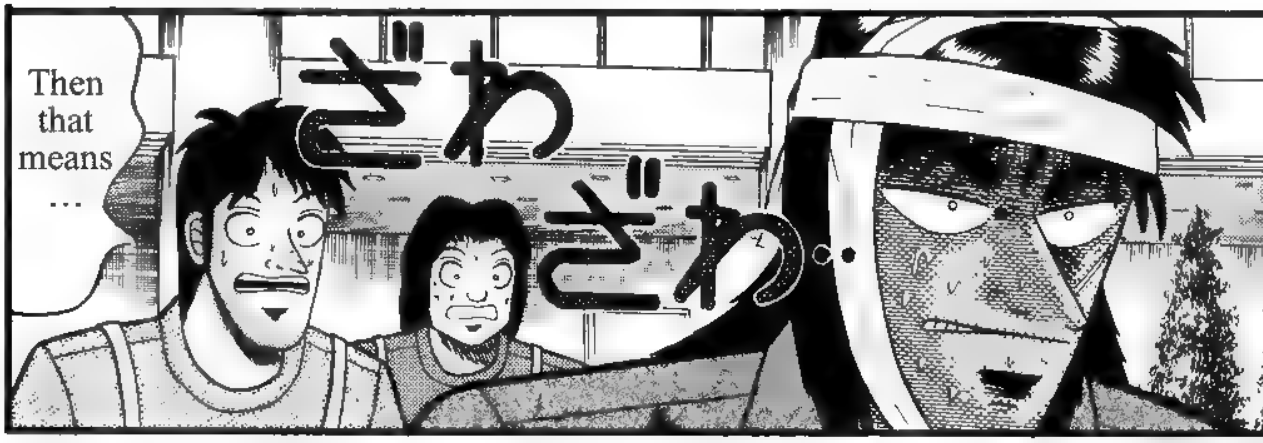
ざわ…
But …!
But …!
But …!
ざわ…

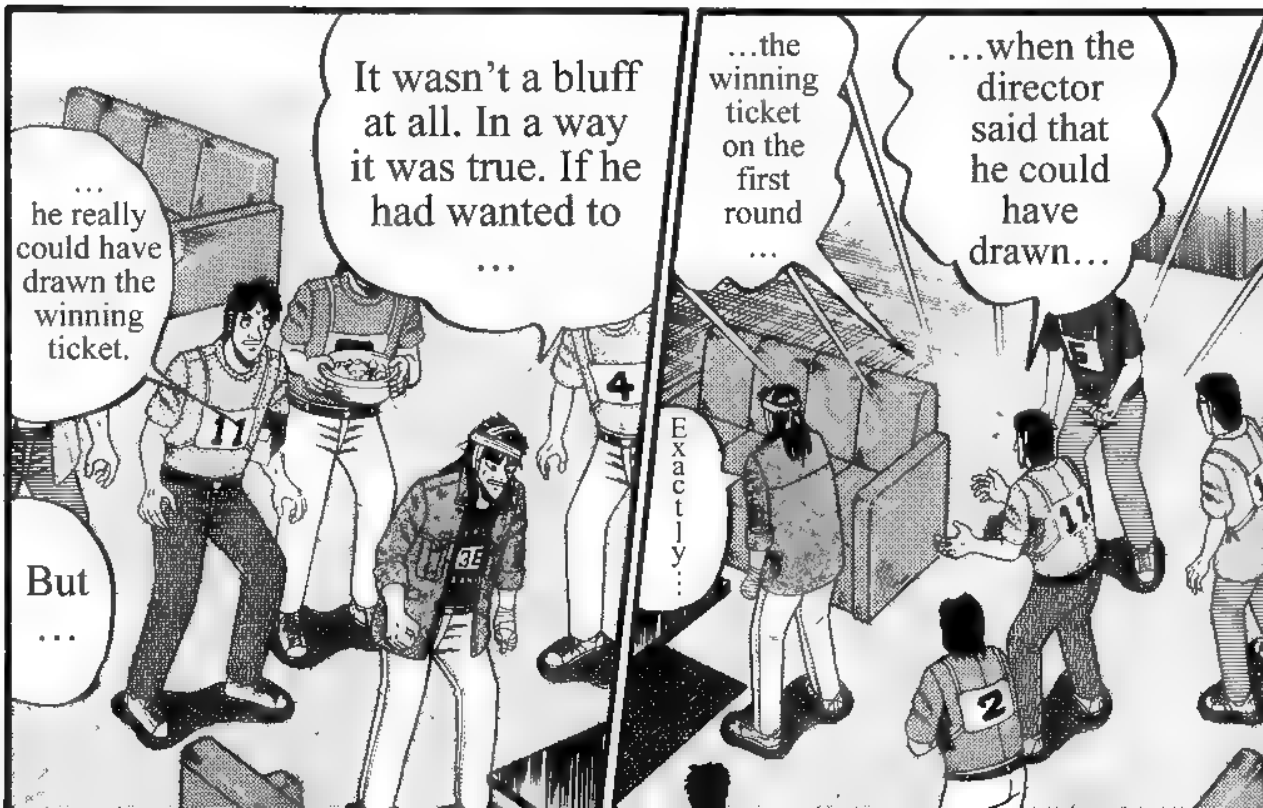
Ahh …!
K-Kaiji-san …!

It's obvious …
How …?
How can that be …?
4

Hyodo must have done it …!
……
Do you see …?
…were myself and Hyodo.
The only two people to put their hands in that box …
On his first pick …
… he must have found the ticket I had planted…
… removed it
… and rolled it…
…into a ball!
Then …
Exactly …!
Huh …?
That's why I couldn't find it …!
He knew …!

……
ざわ…
… and found our trap!
He saw through our strategy …


Then that means …
ざわ
ざわ…

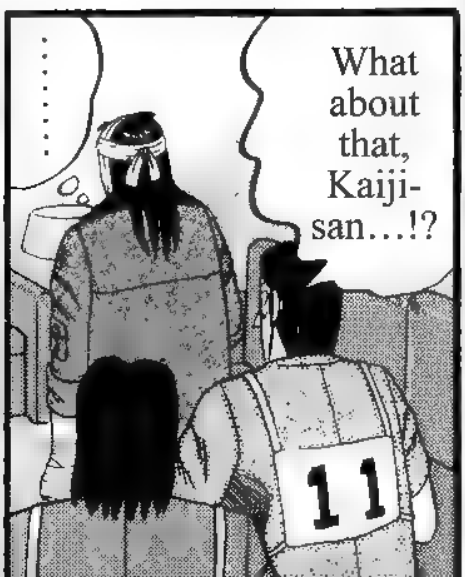

… he really could have drawn the winning ticket.
But …
It wasn't a bluff at all. In a way it was true. If he had wanted to …
…the winning ticket on the first round …
Exactly…
…when the director said that he could have drawn…

Just like a cat …
…when I couldn't find the ticket.
…wanted to see my face, to see me panic…
…he probably …

B-But …
… toying with a mouse!

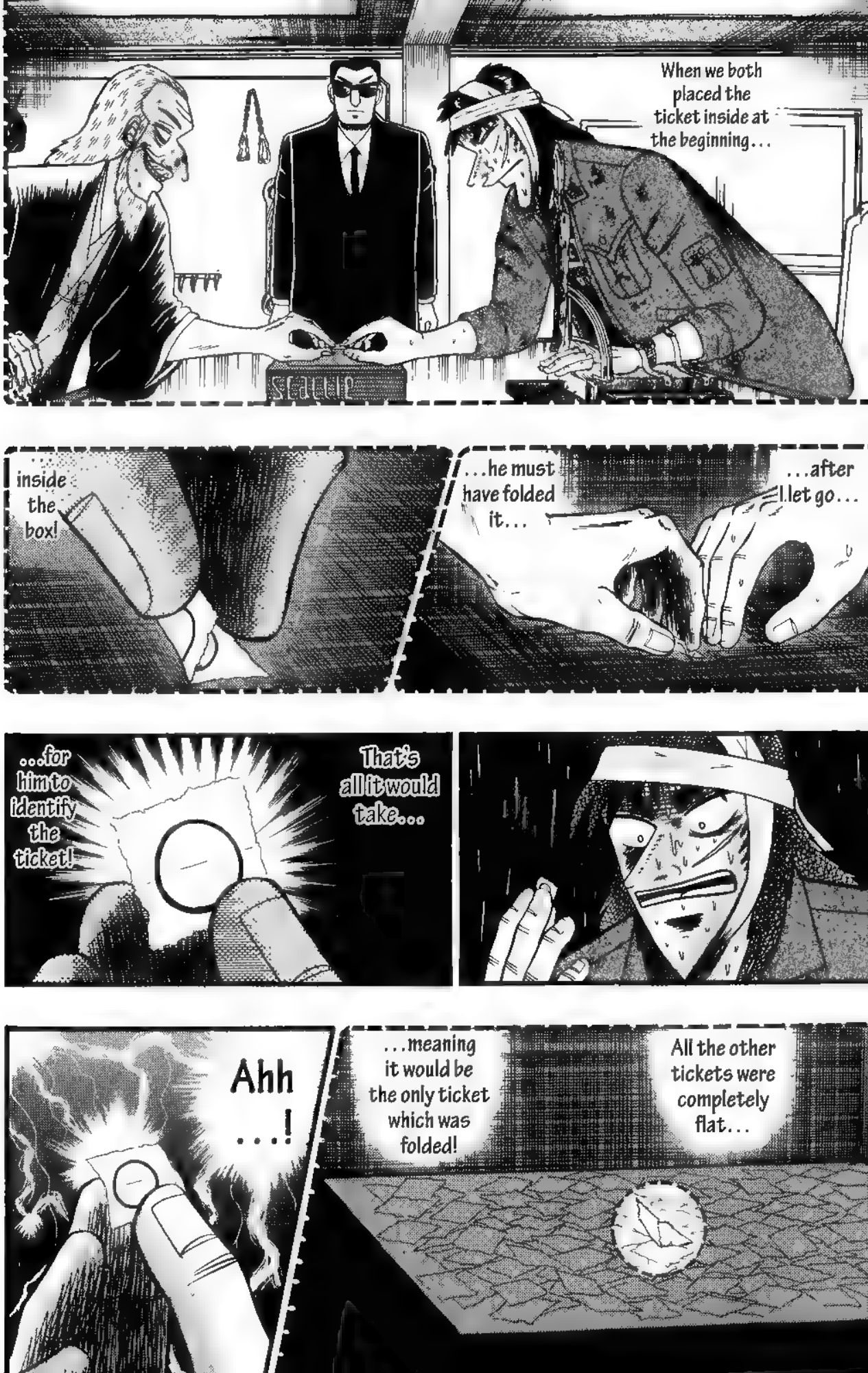
……
Yeah …!
…how he was able to draw the real ticket on the second round.

…that still doesn't explain …
11
2

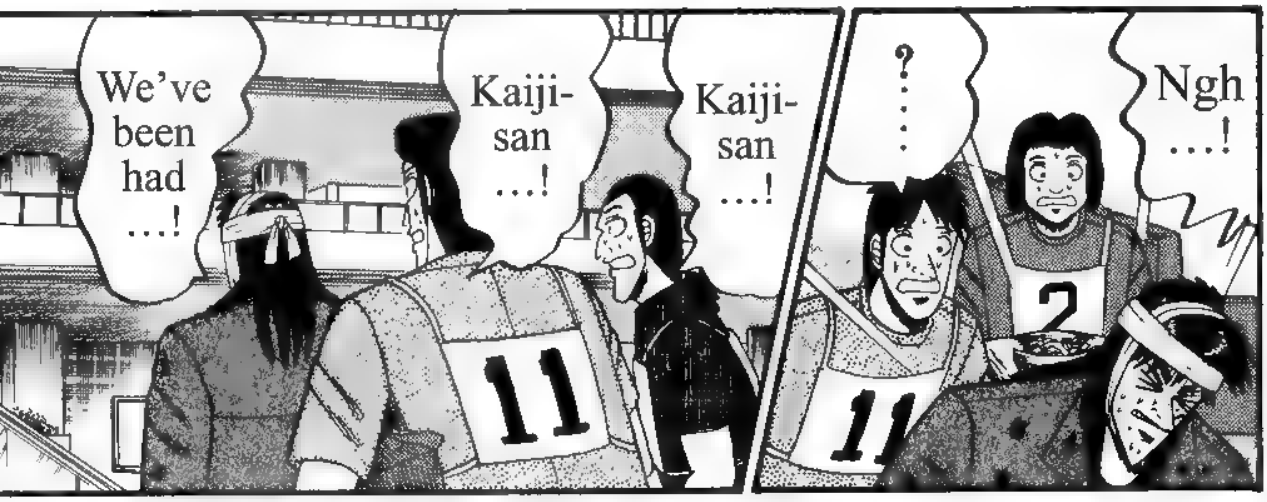

……
What about that, Kaiji-san…!?
11

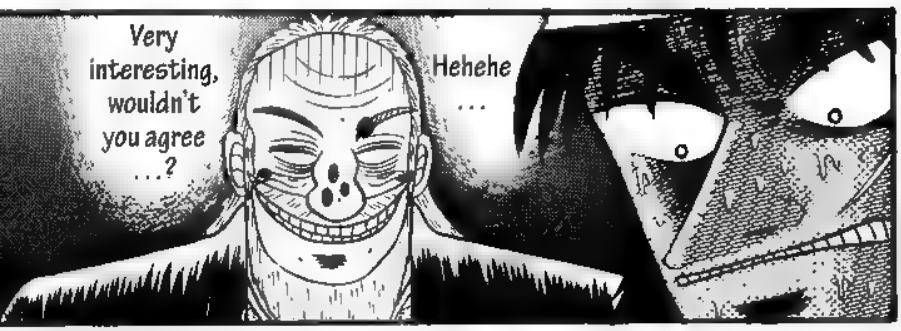
RSV
Ahh
...!

How could I have been so stupid ...!?
A crease ...!
It's right there ...!
...have missed this!?
How could I possibly ...
Hyodo...


When we both placed the ticket inside at the beginning...
inside the box!
...he must have folded it...
...after I let go...
...for him to identify the ticket!
That's all it would take...
Ahh...!
...meaning it would be the only ticket which was folded!
All the other tickets were completely flat...

...you can feel where it's been folded!
If you rub your fingers over the line...
It's so obvious ...!
It's obvious ...


We've been had ...!
Kaiji-san ...!
Kaiji-san ...!
11
?.....
Ngh ...!
2
11


Very interesting, wouldn't you agree ...?
Hehehe ...

... Kaiji-kun.
He wins because he must ...
This is the way of the King ....

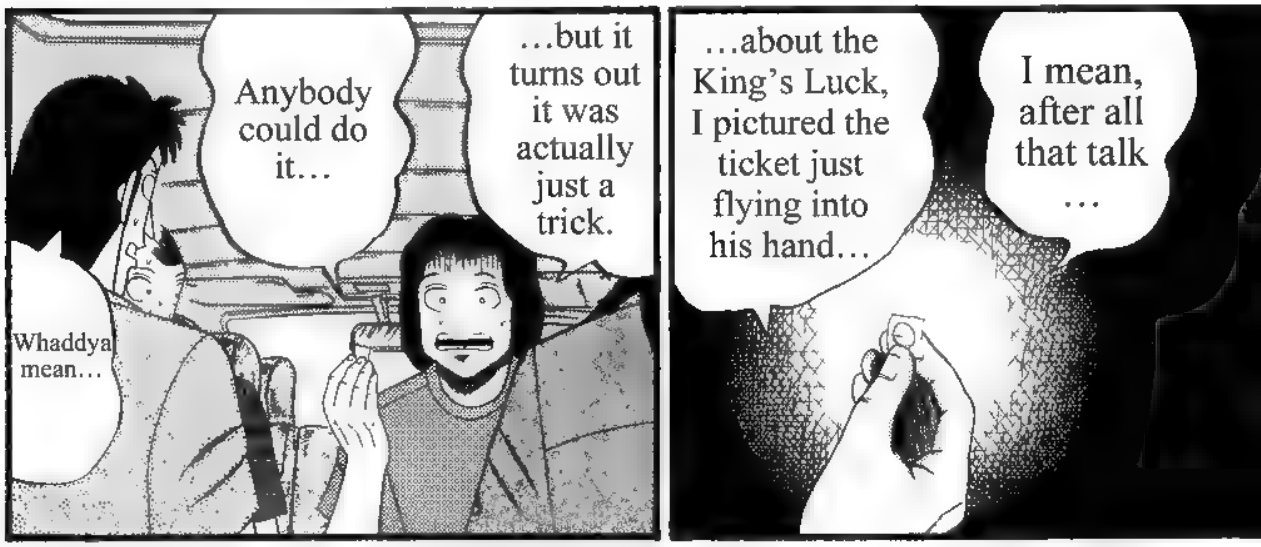
?.....
This is what he meant by the King's luck...
2
This is his calling card ...

End of Chapter 157

Chapter 158: Tomorrow

VRRRM
.....
.....
Eh ...
.....
Let me see ...
So it was folded ...?
VRRRMMM

Huh …?
…it kinda feels like a rip-off!
…that was quick thinking …
You have to admit …
But still …


Whaddya mean…
Anybody could do it…
…but it turns out it was actually just a trick.
…about the King's Luck, I pictured the ticket just flying into his hand…
I mean, after all that talk …

…but to figure all that out on the spur of the moment…
Sure, it's easy to say that once you know the trick…
…and set it up by yourself is something else.
…anybody could do it!?

Well yeah …
…just remember that you didn't figure it out until somebody told you!
An ordinary person couldn't do that…
If you want proof of that…
That's true, I guess …
But …
… Kaiji-san …
……
When do you think Hyodo first noticed…
… our trap?

…was when he raised the bet …

…to 100 million …

…what tipped him off for sure …

I think …

…that in our most important match, I had left nothing to chance.

He saw …

Once the heat was on …

…when I played against Tonegawa in Emperor.

Hyodo was watching …

Huh …?

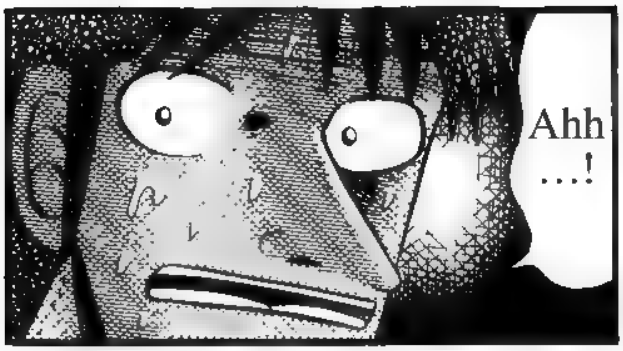
…and I accepted!

So he saw my penchant for this…
…
I began scheming.
…
or to put it bluntly
…
…I worked the odds
…
…
it must have been clear…
Since I accepted the bet
…
…
as a kind of bait.
…and dangled the 100 million yen in front of my face…
Of course
…
……
…
and was laying a trap.
…that I was up to something
…

Either plant a ticket inside the box...
...a lottery!
...only two ways to fix...
There are basically ...
SEATTLE
...from somewhere else!
...you substitute in a ticket you've taken...
... while instead ...
..or else only pretend to draw ...
... but the other reason ...
Obviously part of the reason was to mark the ticket with a crease...
...before the match, Hyodo had us insert the winning ticket together.
That's why ...
As long as that was the case...
...was that he wanted to be sure that there was in fact a winning ticket inside!

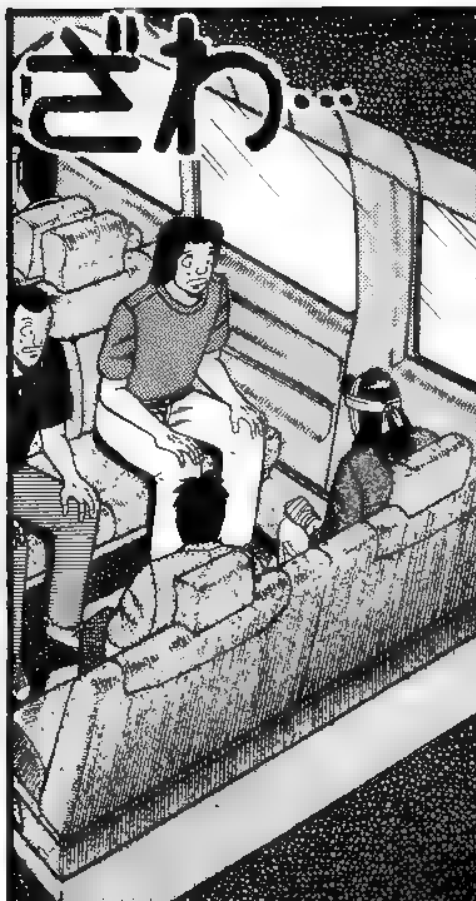
…
they could find the original inside…
…and expose the entire plan!
Seattle
…I snuck a ticket in from somewhere else…
…
even if…
…
once they checked the box
…
That only leaves…
So that trick was covered …!
…was unopened, if there was a ticket planted…
…
it had to be either in the bottom
…
…since the box ….
Seattle
A ticket had to be planted somewhere inside…!
…
the box itself!
And
…

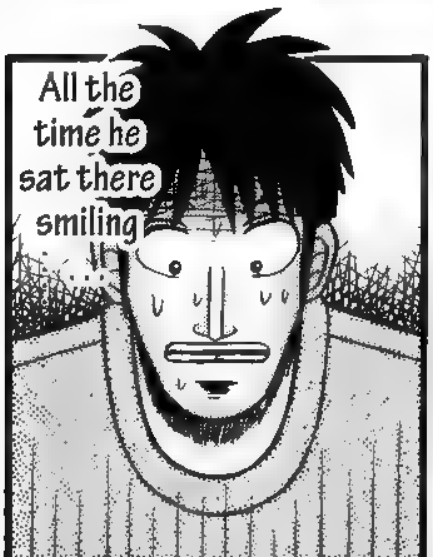
… or the side!


Ahh …!

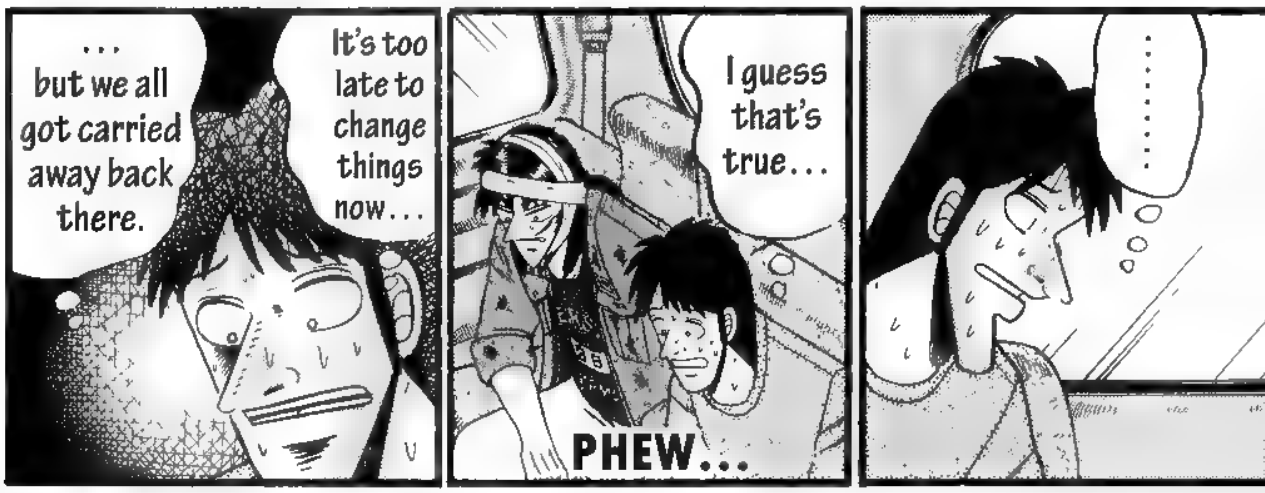
……

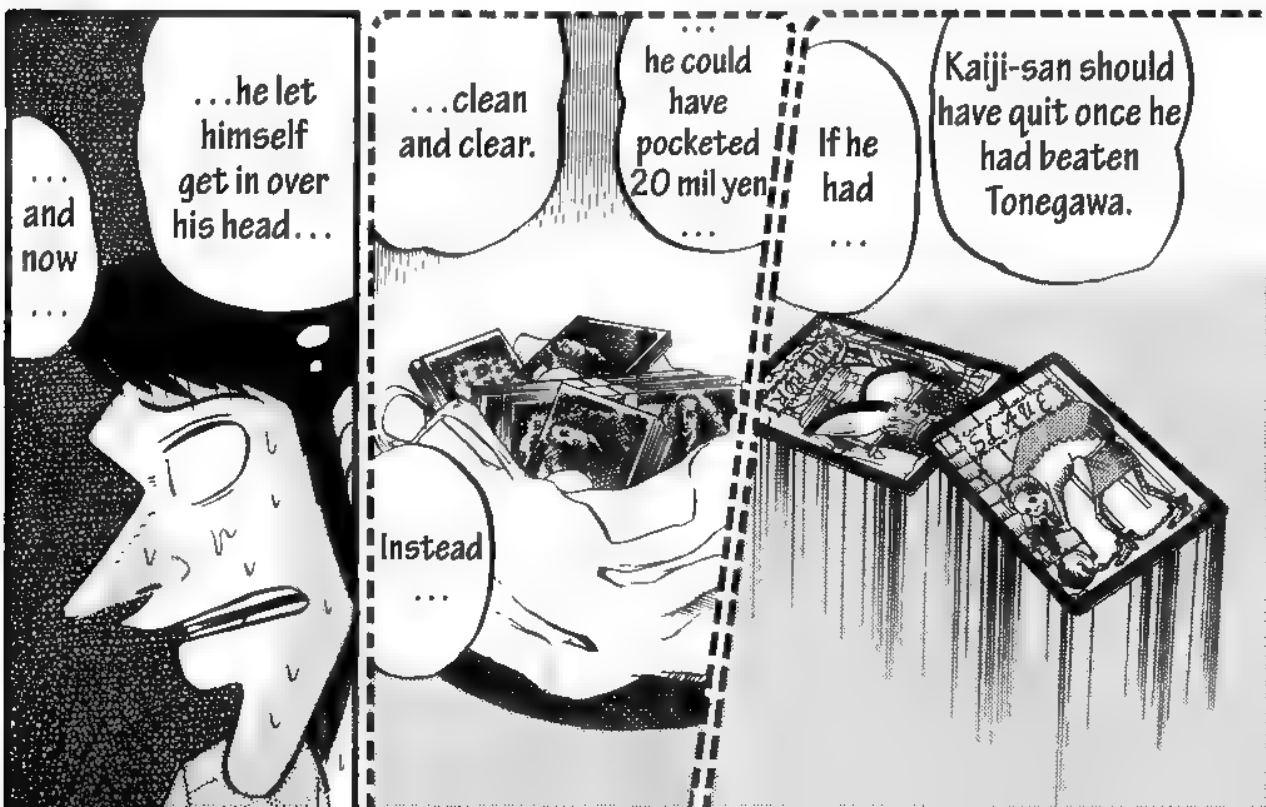
ざわ…ざわ…
ざわ…


ざわ…


All the time he sat there smiling…

We never ...
...even stood a chance!
...Hyodo actually had it all figured out!
The more we learn ...
Our opponent was just too strong.
He's out of our league ...
...the more obvious it is that losing was inevitable!
How could we win against an opponent like that...!?
Some kind of colossus ...!
I was stupid ...


...
but we all got carried away back there.
It's too late to change things now...
I guess that's true...
PHEW...
.....


...and now ...
...he let himself get in over his head...
...clean and clear.
...he could have pocketed 20 mil yen ...
If he had ...
Kaiji-san should have quit once he had beaten Tonegawa.
Instead ...
SALE

...
they probably won't be able to reattach his fingers
...
Forget about his ear
...
...
he's paying the price!
Kaiji-san...
...and even if they do, they'll probably never work right again.
It's too late to realize that now, there's nothing we can do...
I could have won
...
.....
Huh ...!?

I could have won …!
That match was winnable …!

Why didn't I attack him there …!?
H-Hold on a second …

What …!?
Hyodo has a weakness …

…placed a mark on the ticket!
That means …
Hyodo …
……
What do you mean, a weakness …?
But instead, he held back…
…and gave me a chance to draw as well.
…he could have drawn the ticket on the first try!
……
…is his weakness.
His pride …
That's his weakness …!
He left himself open…
I should have thought things through more carefully…
…when I couldn't find the ticket I had planted.
Do you see …?

…
I probably would have found the rolled up ticket as well.
If that had occurred to me…
And then …
…I never considered that Hyodo might have gotten rid of the ticket himself?
For some reason…
…
on the actual ticket!
…that Hyodo had left a mark, a crease …
…I probably would have realized …
…once I remembered Hyodo's insistence that we place the winning ticket inside together …
…
then I would have won!
If I had …
……

I could have done it...!

But instead ...
Kaiji-san...

...I prayed!
Instead of thinking ...
...as stupid as it sounds ...

I should have known better …
SOB
…and prayed that God would show me the way!
…I just closed my eyes …
…you can rely on is yourself.
GRIND
The only person …
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
I should have known that…!

GULP
Kaiji-san...
WIPE
WIPE
WIPE
Kazutaka Hyodo
...
Hyodo
...
Hyodo
...!
I'll see you crawl, one of these days...!

End of Chapter 158

Act 2

The Castle of Despair

Fin.

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